

**Over a century of service
to the Valley Community**



November - December 2009
VOL. 2 ISSUE 6

DERBY NECK LIBRARY



STOWE AND TWAIN MUSEUMS RETURN

Patrons and students may recall the impact of the program on *Stowe and Twain: Effecting Social Change* held following a pizza lunch at the Library last February. By popular demand, this program will be held again on Wednesday, December 9th from 11:30 am-1:15 pm. Although targeted to Derby High School history and English classes, the program is also open to the general public, and to students from area schools.

Sonya Green Noble, Program Coordinator of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center and Craig Hotchkiss of the Mark Twain House & Museum will be coming down from the Hartford complex to present the program on events leading up to the Civil War, with an emphasis on Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* and how these books shaped attitudes that resulted in the Civil War. Derby High students have been reading these books, and we look forward to hearing their contributions to the discussion. Registration is required for Library patrons at 734-1492.

Staff Profile

Linda Ribas

I grew up in Shelton only a few blocks from Plumb Library. I have always been an avid reader, and I spent so much time there—these are pre-television days—that the librarian, Mrs. Mills, suggested to me several times that I should think about a career in libraries. And when television did come to our household, it wasn't very good—so I continued to be a reader—but I explained to Mrs. Mills that I wanted to be a journalist.

I studied English literature at the Universities of Connecticut and Wisconsin, and I lived for a while in New York City, where I tried my hand as an editor, a caseworker for the welfare department, an administrative assistant. I found myself at a loss when I returned to Shelton in the 1970's, but eventually and fortunately found work at Plumb Memorial Library—fortunately, because libraries are one of my favorite places in the world. I realized then that Mrs. Mills had been right all along—I belonged in a library. I had been searching for my niche a long time. I returned to school again—this time to earn an MLS and begin a career as a school librarian in the public school system.

When I retired from the public schools, I had the chance to work weekends at Derby Neck, and that was a wonderful opportunity, because I think it is by far the prettiest library in the Valley and a very special place.

Now I work with periodicals and interlibrary loan books, as well as at the circulation desk. I am very active in the Friends of the Derby Neck Library and enjoy helping to plan programs and do some of the publicity for them. And, of course, each May and November we host our semi-annual book sale. I have made some good friends among the Friends and love working with people who, like me, love books.

I try to stay active. My pastimes include going to the gym, attending plays, an online literary group, and playing bridge. Of course, I read all the time—and working in the library gives me the opportunity to discover books I might not otherwise come across. (My favorite authors are John Lescroart and Elizabeth George.) Also, I am very busy with the Friends of the Library and all of their activities and events. They have some great cultural programs.

Libraries are wonderful places—so upbeat, so orderly—a great resource for children. Libraries have a very special, distinctive atmosphere. I think my sentiments were captured exactly by Longfellow when he said:



**The love of learning
The sequestered nooks
And all the sweet
Serenity of books.**



Privately Funded
Regional Library

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(203) 732-2913 FAX

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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)



Linda Ribas

Derby Neck Library Productions

By Andrew Bisaccia

Every job has its perks. The President gets Air Force One, teachers get the summer off, garbage men get lots of fresh air, my dad gets his very own cubicle – and I get to be the head of a film studio. Derby Neck Library Productions may not have the same name recognition as Fox, Warner Brothers, or Disney (though according to the latest Nielsen poll we're edging out New Line by about 10%); but we've got one thing the big companies would kill for: fresh ideas. Our dedicated team, which consists largely (though not exclusively) of teenagers, has produced nearly twenty independent films involving everything from corrupt lawyers to deli meat, from breakfast cereal to Charles Darwin, from demonic snowmen to Venetian art smugglers, and from Stephen King to the Russian economy. I encourage all Derby Neck patrons to check out our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/derbynecklibrary to see a sampling of our short films, many of which will soon be available on DVD under the title *The Sandwich and Other Curiosities*. Two of our longer films, *CSI: Derby Neck* and *A Moron by Any Other Name*, are already available in the YA DVD section of the library. Anyone interested in helping us reach our goal of producing high-quality films (and having fun at the same time) should call the library and ask for Kathi or Andrew, or just come down and meet the crew after 3:30 PM on Tuesday afternoons.



LIBRARY COLLECTS FOR TOYS FOR TOTS

Beginning November 14th, Derby Neck Library will again serve as a collection site for TEAM Inc.'s Toys for Tots drive. TEAM has been operating the Valley Toys for Tots program for over 20 years. This program collects new, unwrapped toys during November and December and distributes them as Christmas gifts to needy children in the Lower Naugatuck Valley community. Each year, with the help of the community, TEAM provides toys to over 1,000 children.

Place your unwrapped new toys in our decorated collection box located in the side entrance hall during the holiday season. Here is a way to show the true spirit of the holidays, and bring special joy to needy Valley children!



The Latest From The Friends of Derby Neck Library

Book Sale

The Friends of Derby Neck Library will hold their next book sale from November 14 through November 22. It will be held in the community room at Derby Neck Library at 307 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby. There will be hundreds of new titles. We offer fiction, non-fiction, children's books, videos, magazines and more. Hardcover books are \$1.00; paperbacks are 50 cents. In addition to books and media materials, we will be having a bake sale. Also, the Library will be selling unneeded items from our attic. Come see what we've been holding onto!

Most of our funds are raised through book sales. With these funds, we purchase supplies and equipment for the library. We also sponsor programs. Recently we sponsored David Koch who spoke on Charles Darwin, and we had an Italian cooking demonstration by Jacqueline Miconi. On November 8, there will be a cookbook cookoff.

Come to our book sale and browse for as long as you like. Hours are the same as library hours—1 to 5 on weekends and 10 to 8 on weekdays. We are closed on Fridays. Book donations are welcome!

The Friends meet the third Wednesday of every month at 6 P.M. If you love the library, join us at one of our Friends' meetings. We are always looking for new members.

THE NEEDLERS WELCOME ALL

The Derby Neck Needlers are a group of 15-25 friends who enjoy knitting, crocheting, quilting and needlework. They meet every Saturday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm, and welcome anyone who wants to improve on crafting skills. The group is unusually friendly, and members are eager to teach new members and help with problems. At least once a season the Needlers put on a bountiful potluck meal. The number and variety of dishes created are a sight to behold!

The Needlers also serve as strong supporters of the Derby Neck Library. Their creations are on display at the Library and are available for purchase. The proceeds are donated back to the Library in support for adult and children's programs, and the purchase of musical instruments for children, craft books and craft periodical subscriptions. Kathy Kalynowski not only donates her needle handicrafts along with the other Needlers, but also gives to the Library all the proceeds from the lovely beaded jewelry she creates. Thank you, Kathy! Her work is on display on the counter to the left as you enter through the McEvoy Place door. Drop in any Saturday afternoon and get acquainted with these remarkable crafters.

Special Delivery



Pat Sweeney of the library staff found some novels, in a hurry, for a Derby Neck area young woman who recently visited the library one mid-day while in labor (as in childbirth). A first-time mother, the woman was to be delivered of a baby boy later in the day at the Griffin Hospital Childbirth Center. This patron felt she could not face the rest of her day without a couple of good library books to pass the time at the hospital. The baby, named "Liam Thomas," was born at 9:44 p.m. on Oct. 1—his late great-grandmother's birthday. He weighed in at 5 pounds, 11 ounces and is 17+ inches tall. We hope he becomes a regular visitor at our library, as are his mom and dad. The entire library staff wishes the family well.

Cookbook Cookoff on November 8th

If you love to cook or bake, join us on November 8 and participate in our Cookbook Cookoff.

Come in and choose a recipe from one of the library's many cookbooks. There is a display of cookbooks near the main desk. Bring in your finished creation and stay to chat with other cooks about food, recipes and more.

Choose a recipe for an appetizer, an Italian entrée or a dessert. Make one or all three.

Recipe must come from one of Derby Neck Library's cookbooks. Food must be bite-sized and served at room temperature. Liquid refreshments will be served. Registration is required. Stop in or call 734-1492.



STAFF:

Judith Augusta, *Interim Head Librarian*
Kathleen Gordon, *Assistant Head Librarian/Children's Librarian*
Patricia Sweeney, *Reference & Cataloging*
Roberto Carmona, *Circulation & IT*
Brad Anello, Andrew Bisaccia, Rita McEvoy, Linda Ribas, Carol Senfield, Joan Wheeler

SUPPORT STAFF: Bonnie Chevarella, Azra Mulaimovic, Victoria Smey, Kim Turiano

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The Holiday Season at the Osborne Homestead Museum



By Patricia E. Sweeney

Each year, beginning on the morning after Thanksgiving Day, Mrs. Frances Osborne Kellogg's Homestead Museum, at 500 Hawthorne Ave., is opened to the public after being decorated by some 50-60 volunteers. These dedicated women (and a couple of related men) come from various garden clubs throughout the Lower Naugatuck Valley and points north.

Since the new millennium the holiday decorations have followed specific themes, including—The Nutcracker,

The Twelve Days of Christmas, Christmas around the World, Christmas through the Decades (when two Derby Neck Library staffers did a 1940s room), The Songs of the Season, and The Night before Christmas. Last year's theme focused on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

This year for "The Wonders of Nature" all the decorations reflect elements of nature in Connecticut. Included are rooms featuring pinecones, stars, ice and snow, birds, roses (a Frances Kellogg favorite), and more. Come learn a few interesting facts about local nature while enjoying the superlative scenes prepared by the volunteers.

The dates are: Nov. 27 - Dec. 20 / Thurs, Fri., Sat., Sun. at 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Twilight Tours: Fri. Dec. 4, 11, 18 at 4 - 6:30 p.m.

JOBNOW ONLINE SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

Derby Neck Library now offers online access to free expert job coaching through the JobNow program from Brainfuse, Inc. Patrons of all ages can access www.derbynecklibrary.org from public computers in the Library or from home, and connect one-on-one to a trained job coach for assistance in their job search process. The JobNow service offers personality assessments for



patrons just beginning their job search as well as resume and cover letter templates and examples, live interview practice, online resources, local job search websites, and more. Spanish speaking coaches are also available.

COMPUTER-SAVVY VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Library is looking for computer-knowledgeable people who like helping others with computer problems, and who are willing to volunteer their time at Derby Neck. If you have superior computer knowledge to share, please contact Bob Carmona at the Library, at 734-1492.

THANK YOU, JONES FAMILY FARMS

As they have done for many years, Jones Family Farms has shown its support for nonprofit organizations including Derby Neck Library by offering an assortment of pumpkins, gourds and ornamental squash. The Library definitely looks like fall with colorful fruit of the land displayed around the Library. A visit to Jones's is guaranteed to put you in the Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving spirit!



Have Fun with Our New Magnetic Board!

Children's Corner

Take time out from all the holiday preparations to spend time with your children. Come and sit and relax in the children's room while your children enjoy the play kitchen, the children's computer, and our new magnetic board. Read them a book or a story from one of our many children's magazines. Children also get stressed at this time of year, so it can help them to spend some quality time sitting in a lap and listening to a story. Older children will also enjoy relaxing with a grownup and can be encouraged to read to them! You may be surprised to find that you are feeling less stressed after getting some hugs from your children. Also, go to our website often, to learn about our upcoming programs for November and December.



Genealogy Contest

Just a reminder to anyone between the ages of 13-18 to sign up for the genealogy contest. Information and forms are available at the front desk of the library.

First prize is \$100 savings bond, second prize a \$50.00 savings bond, third prize is a \$25.00 savings bond. There will be prizes for two honorable mentions also.



FREE CHINESE AUCTION of 13 new books & DVDs begins November 12th, drawing held Monday, November 23rd at 2 pm. All winners will be notified by phone. They would make good Christmas presents!

INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT

What a downer it is to think about snow and ice while looking out on the colorful fall foliage! But when the snow and ice storms arrive, the Library sometimes closes. In general, if the Derby schools are closed, we will at least start the day closed. If the snow stops during the day 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, click on Weather—Cancellations. Announcements on closings will also be posted to our website at www.derbynecklibrary.org.



Check out our website with the teen commercials at www.derbynecklibrary.org

Calendar of Events

November

November 2	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Computer Class	6-7 pm
November 3	ELECTION DAY	
	For children: Been There Done That	10 am
	For children: Baby Sign	11 am
	For children: Littles	1 pm
November 3, 10, 17, 24	Computer Class	10:30 am
November 3, 10, 17, 24	Beginning Spanish – 6 pm; Intermediate Spanish — 7 pm	
November 4, 11, 18	Computer Class	10:30 am & 6 pm
November 4	Crochet Club	3:30 pm
	For children: Read to Zoe (dog)	6-7 pm
November 5	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
	For teens and up: Scrabble Night	6:15-7:30 pm
November 7, 14, 21, 28	Needlers Club	1:30-3:30 pm
November 7	Film "Old Man and the Sea"	2 pm
November 8	Derby Neck Cook Off sponsored by Friends	2 pm
November 9	For children: Papillion	10 am
November 10	For children: Been There Done That	10 am
	For children: Baby Sign	11 am
	For children: Littles	1 pm
	Poets Corner	7 pm
November 11	VETERANS DAY – Library is open	
	Crochet Club	3:30 pm
	For children: Bedtime Music & Movement	6:30 pm
November 12	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
November 14	BOOK SALE BEGINS – sponsored by Friends	1-5 pm
November 16	Culture Club – <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	12:30 pm
November 18	Crochet Club	3:30 pm
	Genealogy Roundtable	6:30 pm
November 19	Current Events Club	6:30 pm
November 22	BOOK SALE ENDS	
November 25	LIBRARY CLOSSES AT 5 PM.	
November 26	THANKSGIVING DAY – LIBRARY IS CLOSED	
November 30	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am



Happy Thanksgiving!

December

December 1	For children: Been There Done That	10 am
	For children: Baby Sign	11 am
	For children: Littles	1 pm
December 1, 8, 15, 22	Computer Class	10:30 am
December 2, 9, 16	Computer Class	10:30 am & 6 pm
December 2	Crochet Club	3:30 pm
	For children: Read to Zoe (dog)	6-7 pm
December 3	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
	Scrabble Club	6:15-7:30 pm
December 5, 12, 19, 26	Needlers Club	1:30-3:30 pm
December 7	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
December 7, 14, 21, 28	Computer Class	6 pm
December 8	For children: Been There Done That	10 am
	For children: Baby Sign	11 am
	For children: Littles	1 pm
December 9	Pizza and Stowe & Twain Program	11:30 am - 1:15 pm
	Crochet Club	3:30 pm
	For children: Bedtime Music & Movement	6:30 pm
December 10	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
December 14	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
December 15	For children: Been There Done That	10 am
	For children: Baby Sign	11 am
	For children: Littles	1 pm
December 16	Crochet Club	3:30 pm
	Genealogy Roundtable	6:30 pm
December 17	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
	Current Events Club	6:30 pm
December 21	Culture Club Luncheon	12:30 pm
December 24-25	CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY – LIBRARY CLOSED	
December 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE – LIBRARY CLOSED	
January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY – LIBRARY CLOSED	

