

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

September - October 2009
VOL. 2 ISSUE 5



DERBY NECK LIBRARY

Former Derby Resident Publishes Ninth Mystery

**Edward Sklepowich will appear at Derby Neck Library on
Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 pm**

Noted mystery writer Edward Sklepowich, educated in the Derby schools and recipient of a Fulbright scholarship, has just published his ninth mystery, *The Veils of Venice*. Mr. Sklepowich locates his books in Venice, where Urbino Macintyre, a literary biographer and sleuth is frequently drawn in when crimes occur. His latest book has already been reviewed favorably in *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist* (August 2009), where the reviewer Jessica Moyer comments, "Sklepowich combines an agreeable cozy mystery with some atmospheric writing about Venice, evoked both in descriptive passages and in the characters' palpable love of the city. New and old readers will enjoy this charming entry, which should be suggested to all Donna Leon fans."

Mr. Sklepowich is presently a university lecturer in Tunisia. His earlier books in the Urbino Macintyre series include: *Death in a Serene City*; *Farewell to the Flesh*; *Liquid Desires*; *Black Bridge*; *Death in the Palazzo*; *Deadly to the Sight*; *The Last Gondola*; and *Frail Barrier*. Mr. Sklepowich's works will be available at the Library in September.

Please phone the Library at 734-1492 to register to attend this program.

Staff Profile

Andrew Bisaccia

The way I see it, you've got three basic styles to choose from if you want to write about yourself at any length. First, there's the St. Augustine Method, in which you confess the transgressions of your past life with brutal honesty in order to demonstrate God's providence and mercy. (This way works best if you can write in beautiful, poetic Latin.) Next, you've got the Ben Franklin Method, in which you use stilted, formal prose to extol your endless ingenuity, virtue, and common sense. (Don't Forget To Use Lots Of Cap. Letters & Abbrev. Like Frank. Did.) Finally, you could use the James Frey Method, in which you pretend to confess the transgressions of your past life with brutal honesty but actually just make stuff up. (You could wind up making a lot of money, but who wants to deal with getting chastised by Oprah?)

Well, I really don't have room to pick one, so I'll just tell you a few things about myself. Right now I'm an English major going into my junior year at Fairfield University. I've been an employee at the D.N.L. since about 2004, and a patron since I was - oh, I don't know - three weeks old. My main duties around here include helping out with computer maintenance and running our film program, which has recently produced two movies that are available to the public: *CSI: Derby Neck* and *A Moron by Any Other Name*.

Outside work I am an aspiring writer and something of an expert on J.R.R. Tolkien, the greatest artist and thinker of the 20th century. I love to read Catholic literature of all kinds, anything written before the Renaissance, fantasy, science fiction, and comic books. As for movies, I'm a big fan of pretty much all the classics, especially movies by Hitchcock, Scorsese, Ford, Kubrick, and Kurosawa.

Keep an eye out for my column in upcoming editions of this newsletter.



Andrew Bisaccia

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)



Want to hear the new Derby Neck Library song written by our children's librarian Kathi Gordon? Check out our

website, and click on Kathi's photo. She sings, she strums, she sings duets. So join in on this catchy tune with the cleverly rhyming lyrics, and sing along!



Something New Has Been Added!

Thanks to the strength and assembly skills of our energetic children's librarian Kathi Gordon, with the able assistance of Bob Carmona and Andrew Bisaccia of the staff, the Library now has a lovely netting-draped gazebo set up in the garden for summer programs. It provides both shade and protection from flying critters to children sitting on the circular stone bench within. The first program presented in the new gazebo was author/illustrator Billy Steers and Tractor Mac.

If that heavy project weren't enough to tire her out, Kathi then took the ailing front door message box home and repaired, sanded and clear-coated it, and replaced the hardware as well. Admire her handiwork and check on upcoming programs when you come in the front entrance!



Learn New Skills at the Library this Fall

Fall is always a perfect time to continue your education, whether that be in school, or in the library. Derby Neck Library, at 307 Hawthorne Ave., has two on-going weekly programs this fall to give you new skills—crocheting and computer education. And, best of all, these classes are free.

Beginners' computer lessons, featuring the basics of running a computer and searching the internet, are held four times each week, beginning in October: Mon. and Wed. at 6-7 p.m., and Tues. and Wed. at 10:30-11:30 a.m. People interested in enrolling must call Bob at 734-1492 to be given the details.

Beginners' crochet lessons are held each Wednesday afternoon, starting on Sept. 16 at 3:30 p.m. Staff members and volunteers guide you along as you learn basic stitches. Easy patterns are available, so you can begin making scarves and afghans right away. The library provides practice crochet hooks and samples of yarn so you do not have to invest any money into this craft until you are confident you wish to pursue it. Ages 8 and up are invited to attend. This is a walk-in program, so no registration is required, but call the library at 734-1492 for details.



Bubbling Bubbles on Grandparents Day

On Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009, the Friends of Derby Neck Library will celebrate

Grandparents Day with Mr. Bungles and a Bubbling Bubble Program—outdoors in the garden next to the library. The event will be held at 4:15 and will last an hour. Prior to the bubble program, refreshments will be served in the community room at 3:15. All ages welcome! Bring your grandparents and join the fun!

The Latest From The Friends of Derby Neck Library

The Friends of Derby Neck Library are a group of about 10 active members who work to provide materials and programs for the library and to support the library in any way possible.

Our primary method of fund-raising is through two book sales each year — one in the fall and one in the spring. Upcoming programs include an outdoor bubble program with Mr. Bungles on Grandparents Day, Sept. 13, 2009. Also, on Sept. 29 at 6:30, David Koch of Housatonic Community College will speak on Darwin and the publication of *Origin of Species*, a very controversial book in its time. Our next book sale is the week before Thanksgiving this fall.

Barbara Badela is President of the Friends Group. Linda Ribas is secretary, and JoAnn Patters is treasurer. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at 6 P.M. We are always looking for new members to join our dedicated group.

- Linda Ribas, Secretary Friends of Derby Neck Library

Wilbur F. Osborne, Inventor

By Patricia E. Sweeney

Besides being the founder of our library, Wilbur Osborne was a leading industrialist in the Valley, owning and being a principal in a number of factories, most notably—Osborne and Cheeseman of Ansonia and Union Fabric of Derby. In this capacity, he constantly experimented with perfecting the goods he produced in order to please consumers and gain their business. He is listed in the U.S. Patent Office as holding numerous patents on a few interesting items, dating from 1877 through to 1905. These items include two *bustles* designed in 1888 (the height of ladies' fashion in that era).

The men folks were not forgotten: Wilbur designed numerous small goods to please their tastes—including *suspender buckles* in 1879 and 1885 and a special elegant *suspender weaving* in 1880. The latter consisted of a floral type design, demonstrating that even men at the time enjoyed decorative clothing based on features in nature. Also included in Wilbur's patents are improved side-fasteners for shoes worn in a short boot-like mode, designed in 1879, and a patent to outline improvements in modes of manufacturing buckle-tongues patented in 1878.

Calling All Teens to Trace Your Roots

Contest with Prizes!

Starting in October in conjunction with Family History Month, the Derby Neck Library will be holding a contest on tracing your roots for young adults ages 13-18 who live and/or attend

school in Derby, Shelton, Oxford, Ansonia or Seymour. This contest encourages teens to learn about 3-4 generations of their family and teaches how to do traditional genealogy research, as well as research on the internet. Entrants will be asked to write a timeline and biography of a relative, using creatively any medium of their choice to enhance the story of their family.

Judges and prizes for the contest will be announced in October. Jaime Aulet has offered to help students with their projects. Jaime teaches individual and group workshops in genealogy at the Library. An application for the contest will be available at the front desk at the beginning of October. The submission deadline will be in the winter of 2010, giving applicants plenty of time to interview relatives over the holidays.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Shirley Erickson, *President*; Bernard Williamson, *Vice President*; Madeleine Sobin, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Angelo Dirienzo, Laura Donahue, Clarence Douglass, Rick Dunne, John Kelleher, Karen Kemmesies, John Rak, Bruce Sill, Joyce Tredinnick, John Walsh



This summer's program was a great success with many children reading to one or more of the 8 therapy dogs available. Children could choose a book from the library or bring their own book from home to read. This program gives children a chance to socialize with a calm dog and to practice their reading skills in a neutral environment. Dogs are always good listeners and they help give the children the confidence they need to read out loud. After reading to one of the dogs the children receive a "Thank you" bookmark with the picture of the dog they read to and a personalized book mark with a picture of them reading to the dog. The bookmark also has the date and the child's name included on it. The program will continue in the fall with Sandy, once a month starting in September. Check out our web page (www.derbynecklibrary.org) for the dates, times and wonderful pictures of this summer's program.

New Benches for the Library

Derby Neck Library and Friends of Derby Neck Library were delighted to receive five new, handmade benches from local teen Johnny Campoli this August.

As part of his Eagle Scout project—and working with the Friends of the Library in the planning, Johnny has built five new benches for the library to be displayed outdoors. The library has wanted some outdoor furniture for a long time. The benches are 56" long.

One bench will be situated beside the side entrance and used by people waiting for rides in the nearby parking lot—and also by patrons who arrive a little early—before the library is opened, as is so often the case.

Three benches are situated on the patio to the side of the community room, which is a kind of inner courtyard. To date, it has not been used by patrons, because there has been no seating. Now staff members and patrons will be able to sit outside and read or work in the good weather—perhaps enjoy their lunch there.

The fifth bench will be in the garden adjoining the library building.

Johnny Campoli, who is a senior at Fairfield Prep was assisted by several other Scouts in building the

benches. They include: Josh Moscato, Mike Neuendorf, Brian Mezzepelle, Alex Main and Adam Sroka. Others, who also helped, were Julian Campoli, Chris Kopjanski, Mike Giovna, James Liddel, and Johnny's father, John Campoli.

Materials for the project were donated by several local businesses, including: Oxford Paint and Hardware, Lowe's and Huntingdon Paint.



Fall Events for Adults at the Derby Neck Library

Our most popular clubs and programs for adults (and others) at the Derby Neck Library, 307 Hawthorne Ave., all moderated by Patricia Sweeney, Ph.D., will be offered in September and October on the following schedule:

- Thurs., Sept. 3 at 6:15-7:30 p.m. SCRABBLE NIGHT for all ages. Bring a friend and enjoy a fun evening. Game boards, score sheets, and dictionaries are provided.
- Tues., Sept 15 at 7-8 p.m. POETS' CORNER for aspiring and current poets of teen years and up. Read your own works and share your creativity with others. Special featured topics to enhance your abilities are offered by the moderator.
- Mon., Sept 21 at 1:30-2:30 p.m. CULTURE CLUB for adults who like to read and discuss interesting pieces of literature. Short stories are our primary focus, but we also read novels, poems, and history. Coffee and tea provided free.
- Thurs., Sept 24 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. CURRENT EVENTS CLUB for teen years and up. We discuss the issues of the day by bringing in news articles from proven sources. All areas are on the table—politics, medicine, the arts, economics, sports, etc.
- Thurs., Oct. 1 at 6:15-7:30 p.m. SCRABBLE NIGHT.
- Tues., Oct. 13 at 7-8 p.m. POETS' CORNER
- Mon., Oct. 19 at 12:30-1:30 p.m. CULTURE CLUB
- Thurs., Oct. 22 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. CURRENT EVENTS CLUB

Stripers on the Housatonic

Derby Neck Library will present Derby native Paul Dinice in a slide show presentation, "Stripers on the Housatonic" on Wednesday, September 16th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Library. Gear, locations, bait fish, and techniques will be reviewed. At the end of his talk he will take questions from the audience, and will distribute limited numbers of "Guide to Stripers on the Housatonic."

Mr. Dinice is a member of area fly fishing clubs, teaches classes on fly tying, writes for fishing newsletters, and is a member of the Derby Inland Wetlands Commission. For reservations call the Library at 734-1492.

Tracing Your Roots Using Basic Genealogy

Jaime Aulet will return to the Library on Monday, September 14th at 6:00 p.m. to offer a Genealogy Basics class. Ms. Aulet has been researching her own family tree for ten years, and presented a series of classes last spring to enthusiastic audiences. She will share her knowledge of useful websites and techniques for searching for that missing ancestor. Her program will cover such topics as organizing information through computer programs, using Vital Records, Census Records, and the Social Security Death Index; and exploring cemeteries. Register for this class by calling 734-1492.

Control Your Finances Through Feng Shui Ned Farrell Returns to Derby Neck

Patrons may remember Feng Shui consultant Ned Farrell's memorable program at the Library a few years ago. In the midst of the recession, Mr. Farrell has developed a new presentation to help us regulate our finances more effectively. As he explains it, "Times like these necessitate using any means at our disposal to take control of our financial situation. Buffers exist that protect us in hard times. In fact, opportunity still exists, if we know how to grasp it. Feng Shui pinpoints five hotspots to give special attention when dealing with finances and opportunities associated with money."

The program will take place on **Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:30 at the Library.** Please register at 734-1492.

"Bring a hand-drawn floor plan of your home for help in targeting the factors that may be holding you back financially, and open up new possibilities for financial success."

Ned Farrell is a professional speaker, Feng Shui consultant, writer, and actor based in Westbrook, CT. He majored in philosophy at St. Bonaventure University, and after graduation joined the Peace Corps, serving as a beekeeper in Paraguay. Upon his return, he graduated from The New England School of Feng Shui, and worked as a realtor and office space designer. He now serves as a Feng Shui consultant, teacher and lecturer.

Calendar of Events

September

September 2	Derby Author of Venice mysteries Edward Sklepowich	7:00 pm
September 3	Scrabble	6:15 pm
September 5, 12, 19, 26	Needlers Club	1:30-3:30 pm
September 7	LIBRARY CLOSED – Labor Day	
September 13	Grandparents Day Party and Bubbling Bubbles Program	3:15-5:00 pm
September 14	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
	Genealogy Basics with Jaime Aulet	6-8 pm
September 15	For children: Been There Done That – 10 am; Baby Sign – 11 am; Littles – 1 pm	7-8 pm
	Poets' Corner	
Sept. 15, 22, 29	Beginning Spanish – 6-7 pm; Intermediate – 7-8 pm	
September 16	For 8 yrs. & up: Crochet Club	3:30 pm
	Stripers on the Housatonic with Paul Dinice	6:30 pm
September 17	For children: Music and Movement	10 & 11 am
September 21	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
	Culture Club	12:30 pm
September 22	For children: Been There Done That – 10 am; Baby Sign – 11 am; Littles – 1 pm	6:30 pm
	Financial Feng Shui with Ned Farrell	6:30 pm
September 23	For age 8 and up: Crochet Club	3:30 pm
September 24	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
	Current Events Club	6:30 pm
September 28	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
September 29	For children: Been There Done That – 10 am; Baby Sign – 11 am; Littles – 1 pm	
	Charles Darwin and the Uproar over <i>Origin of Species</i> by David Koch – Sponsored by Friends of the Library	6:30 pm
September 30	For age 8 and up: Crochet Club	3:30 pm



October

October 1	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
	Scrabble	6:15 pm
	For Teens: Tracing Your Roots Contest starts	
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Needlers Club	1:30-3:30 pm
October 4	For children: Spinning with Kate LaPlante	2 pm
October 5	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
	Computer Class	6-7 pm
October 6	For children: Been There Done That – 10 am; Baby Sign – 11 am; Littles – 1 pm	
Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27	Beginning Spanish – 6-7 pm; Intermediate Spanish 7-8 pm	
October 7	Computer Class	10:30 am & 6 pm
	For Age 8 and Up: Crochet Club	3:30 pm
October 8	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
October 11	Cook-off Sponsored by Friends of the Library	2 pm
October 12	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
	Computer Class	6 pm
October 13	For children: Been There Done That – 10 am; Baby Sign – 11 am; Littles – 1 pm	
	Computer Class	10:30 am
	Poets' Corner	7 pm
October 14	Computer Class	10:30 am & 6 pm
	For Age 8 and up: Crochet Club	3:30 pm
October 15	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
October 18	Pasta Cook-off Sponsored by Friends of the Library	2 pm
October 19	Culture Club	12:30 pm
	Computer Class	6 pm
October 20	Computer Class	10:30 am
October 21	Computer Class	10:30 & 6 pm
	For Age 8 and up: Crochet Club	3:30 pm
October 22	Current Events Club	6:30 pm
October 25	Italian Cooking Demonstration Sponsored by Friends of Derby Neck Library	2 pm
October 26	For children: Pre Threes	10 & 11 am
	Computer Class	6:00 pm
October 27	For children: Been There Done That – 10 am; Baby Sign – 11 am; Littles – 1 pm	
	Computer Class	10:30 am
October 28	Computer Class	10:30 am & 6 pm
	For Age 8 and up: Crochet Club	3:30 pm
October 29	For children: Music & Movement	10 & 11 am
October 31	HALLOWE'EN	

