



INFOBYTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE
WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 8, Issue 1

Spring 2006

Poetry Festival at the Library

**A Celebration of New Jersey's Literary Journals
(& Some New York & Pennsylvania Neighbors)**

Sunday, May 21, 2006

1:00 – 5:00 pm

The West Caldwell Public Library will host the third annual Poetry Festival on May 21, 2006. This popular event merited a write-up in the New York Times after its premiere in 2004. It has grown steadily and draws poets and poetry enthusiasts alike. We're looking forward to another exciting afternoon of poetry readings and interactions with the editors of 12 journals and one poetry anthology. Books and journals will be available for purchase and signing. Stop by for part of the day or stay for the whole event! A full schedule is available at the following website:

<http://hometown.aol.com/dslockward/myhomepage/club.html>



WCPL Poetry Day – 2005 (photo by David Vincenti)

National Library Week

April 2 - 8, 2006

Now is the perfect time to come in and see what is new at the West Caldwell Public Library. Get a library card if you don't already have one and experience the many attributes of our Library.

From the President

One of the enhancements to the Library during the expansion and renovation project was the addition of an Audio-Visual drop to complement the existing book drop. For several years the A-V drop was successfully used for the after-hour return of VCR and audio tapes. However, the A-V drop could not be used for audio CD and DVD disks.

The reason for this limitation was the fact that most of these disks were stored in plastic "jewel cases" that displayed the contents very well but were very fragile and broke easily when placed into the A-V drop.



Last summer, the Friends completed a small project to replace the cases on the rental DVD's which were circulated in jewel cases. About 100 DVD's were put in new cases. Fortunately, most of the non-rental DVD's in the West Caldwell collection already were in rugged cases. After completion of this project, all DVD's can be returned in the Audio-Visual drop after hours.

The only remaining Audio-Visual material that could not be returned in the A-V drop were the approximately 2000 audio CD's that still were in jewel cases. Late in March, the Friends undertook the project to replace the cases on all the audio CD's. This was not a trivial task. We completed the task in three days and used 19 volunteers from the Friends who spent close to a total of 65 manhours on this project. Now, with the audio CD's in rugged cases, virtually all the library Audio-Visual material can be returned in the A-V drop after hours.

The Friends not only provided the labor for the disk changeover but paid for the new rugged cases as well (about \$1100 total for the audio CD's). The volunteer turnout for the case change was gratifying. Most of the participants really enjoyed the work and offered their services for future projects if needed. I want to thank all who participated in this project including the staff members (Karen and Sylvia) who kept feeding us the disks to repackage.

The repackaged disks will be a great convenience for the patrons who want to return A-V material after hours.

Thanks again.

Ron Day

Know Your Library Staff

Gail Holubowich, Library Assistant

Do you remember that cold north wind that blew in on August of 1987? Well that was when Gail moved to West Caldwell from the Great White North. She moved here from Toronto where the weather is very similar to here. No they don't have snow and cold all the time.



Gail has always been a mover – both figuratively and literally. Her twelve years of public school were spent in 13 different schools. She went to the University of Alberta where she received her Bachelor of Science degree. After her internship at the University of Alberta Hospital she was on the move again. She worked in nearly every province in Canada before settling down in Toronto.

The next move was to New Jersey. Gail became active in the West Caldwell community-spending countless hours volunteering and taking an active role in the Home and School association. This was a great way to meet people and get to know a new country. When her family got older she was a substitute teacher for the Caldwell-West Caldwell school board. Then it was time to look for full time employment and she was employed in the jewelry department at Macy's. Five years ago Gail joined the staff at West Caldwell Public Library.

When Gail is not at work you'll find her gardening, at the tennis court or best traveling to some exotic place. "Have bag will travel"

Gail lives in West Caldwell with one of her sons, Brad. She has another son Carl who lives in Washington, D.C.

At the library Gail works in technical services processing loan requests from BCCLS or state libraries. She also works at the circulation desk.

Magnifiers for the Visually Impaired

The West Caldwell Public Library is pleased to offer a reading magnifier for those with low vision. Generously donated by the West Essex Lions Club, this machine is available during regular library hours with no appointment needed. By placing a book or page on the magnifier, the image is then illuminated and enlarged for easy reading on a monitor. It works equally well for text and pictures. The feedback we've received has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. People who have had to give up reading now have a new option available to them! If you or someone you know is interested in trying this out, just stop by the Reference Desk for assistance.

What We're Reading

Staff Favorites

An Instance of the Fingerpost, by Iain Pears, is the best book I've ever read. It is an extremely well written mystery with an expertly developed plot, intriguing characters, and historical resonance. Pears has created a captivating story, not only through his development of an entertaining and challenging murder mystery, but also through his use of 17th Century English religious and political history. The time period as well as the characters jump off the page and draw the reader into the 1663 Oxford, England due to Pears' historical research. The most captivating aspect of this work are the four narratives which all provide alternate scenarios for the same murder and provide their own "fingerposts" which lead to one of the most surprising plot twists imaginable. *An Instance of the Fingerpost* is a very entertaining novel that despite its length is a relatively quick read because it is virtually impossible to put down. This novel is highly recommended for fans of historical fiction, mystery, suspense, and fiction in general. It is also recommended for non-fiction readers who enjoy English history, particularly the Reformation and Restoration periods.

Precious Langhorn-Cox, Librarian

New at the Library:

Downloadable Audiobooks!

Now you don't even have to visit your library to enjoy the newest way to "read" a book – you can listen to it as a downloadable audiobook! Anyone with a valid BCCLS library card can download audiobooks to their computer and portable listening device from the comfort of their home 24/7.

The core collection of NetLibrary eAudiobooks includes a growing number of more than 1,200 titles, with works from notable authors who regularly appear among the top 15 works on the New York Times' Hardcover Best Seller List. More are added monthly, providing a continuous flow of new titles. In addition, the Pimsleur language series offers listeners the opportunity to learn or brush up on any of thirty-nine languages or improve their skills in the English language.

NetLibrary eAudiobooks can be downloaded or played on any desktop, laptop or portable device supporting Windows Media Player version 9 and above. Library users can also transfer favorite titles to a wide range of portable devices, including portable music players, portable media centers, Pocket PCs and even select smartphone devices. For more information, visit the website at: <http://www.bccls.org>

Adult Programs

Masha Hamilton

**Author, Foreign Correspondent
and Journalist**

Thursday, April 6, 2006

2:00 pm. Crane's Mill Meeting

Room: Masha Hamilton will lead a lively discussion of her novel, *The Distance Between Us*. This is a unique opportunity to discuss a book with its author!



7:00 pm at WCPL: Masha Hamilton will join us for a second event in which she will discuss her writing career as well as her most recent book: *The Camel Bookmobile*.

8 Ways to Upgrade Your Job Search

Thursday, April 20, 2006, 7:30 pm

Does your job search keep coming up empty? Join us for this workshop to identify the obstacles in your pursuit of employment. Job Search Consultant William L. Nikel will present valuable tips and techniques to assist you in your goals. As a Job Search Counselor/Workshop Leader of over 20 years, Mr. Nikel brings excellent experience to this informative presentation.

The Passaic River: 81 Miles of History

Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 7:30 pm

Phil Jaeger follows the river through seven counties from its source in Mendham to its end in Newark Bay with an emphasis on historic activities and structures along the river in past centuries. The focus is on topics such as early mills, canal/trolley/railroad crossings, Glacial Lake Passaic, the first successful test of a submarine, extant Native American art and constructions, the country's first planned industrial city and the heroic exploits of the "great descender" Sam Patch.

This program is jointly sponsored by the Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library and the Historical Society of West Caldwell. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Women of Note

Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 6:30 pm

James Caldwell High School's *Women of Note Music Ensemble* will perform at the West Caldwell Public Library Tuesday evening, May 2, 2006 at 6:30 pm. This 24-member female singing group specializes in music for women's voices. Their eclectic repertoire includes madrigals, Cajun folk songs, rock and an early American Camp Meeting song. Please join us for this distinctive music recital!

Greetings from the Director

I would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted in the project to replace the jewel cases of all our music CD's. The financial support for the purchase of these new cases and the time spent in completing the project is much appreciated. Now all our A-V materials may be returned in the A-V drop after hours. This is a great convenience for our patrons.



I would like to welcome our newest Reference and Adult Services Librarian, Precious Langhorn-Cox, who comes to us from Pittsburgh, PA to the staff of the Library. Ms. Langhorn-Cox is a recent graduate from the University of Pittsburgh where she received her Masters of Library and Information Science Degree (MLIS). She holds a BA in History and Medieval Studies from Penn State. While attending Library School, Precious worked in the Preservation Department of the University of Pittsburgh Library and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Her



reference skills, her customer service orientation and her expertise in archival work make her an asset to the staff. The Board of Trustees and staff wish her well in her all her new endeavors. Precious loves to shop. Obviously, one of her favorite authors is Sopia Kinsella who writes the Shop-aholic novels. And her favorite TV shows are reality shows including MTV's "The Real World" and "American Idol". Please introduce yourself to Precious and welcome her to the staff and community when you see her smiling face at the Reference Desk or in the stacks!

We also welcome Joe McHugh back from his leave of absence. He was certainly missed by our customers at both the Circulation and Reference Desks. My thanks to all the staff members who accepted additional hours and responsibilities while Joe was out.

And we will be saying goodbye to Melanie Sze, Head of Technical Services, who will be leaving the staff of the Library to pursue other endeavors. Melanie was on the staff for five years. Her technical expertise will greatly be missed. We wish Melanie all the best in her new pursuits.

This month the staff will display a special collection of poetry books in celebration of **National Poetry Month**. Try reading poetry collections by Billy Collins, Mary Oliver, Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, Emily Dickinson, Nikki Giovanni, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost . . . just to name a few of my favorites. And for the children in your life, try Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, James Stevenson, A.A.Milne, Mother Goose or Arnold Lobel. All who will bring smiles to the faces of youngsters!

Happy Reading!

April Judge



WCPL

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InfoBytes Editor – Ron Day

Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am – 9:00 pm

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

(Saturdays in Summer 9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Literacy Volunteers of America Conversation Group

Mondays at 6:30 pm

Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, Jun. 5, 12, 19, 26

World War II Veterans Oral History Project

Thursdays at 2:00 pm

Apr. 13, 27, May 11, 25, Jun. 8, 22

Book Discussion Group

Masha Hamilton: Thursday, April 6

2:00 pm - *The Distance Between Us*. Crane's Mill

Friday Afternoon at the Movies

Showtime 1:00 pm

4/7/06 Enchanted April. 1991. PG. Josie Lawrence, Miranda Richardson. Four women rent a chateau on a remote Italian island to try to come to grips with their lives and relationships.

4/14/06 Just Like Heaven. 2005. PG-13. Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo. A lonely landscape architect falls for the ghost of a beautiful woman who used to live in his apartment.

4/21/06 The Prizewinner of Defiance, Ohio. 2005. PG-13. Julianne Moore, Woody Harrelson. The true story of how a mother supported her family of ten kids by entering and winning writing contests.

4/28/06 Mad Hot Ballroom. 2005. PG. Documentary. The students of several New York City elementary schools learn ballroom dancing and compete in a citywide dance competition.

5/5/06 Pride and Prejudice. 2005. PG. Keira Knightley, Matthew McFadyen. A humorous story of love and life among English gentility during the Georgian era. Five single sisters find their lives turned upside down when a wealthy young man and his acquaintances move to their neighborhood.

5/12/06 Good Night and Good Luck. 2005. PG. David Strathairn, Patricia Clarkson. In the 1950s, broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow takes a stand against the paranoia of Communism spread by Senator Joseph McCarthy.

5/19/06 Memoirs of a Geisha. 2005. PG-13. Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe. This sweeping romantic epic depicts the mysterious and exotic world of the geisha. An impoverished child is sold to a geisha house and grows up to become the most famous geisha in Japan.

5/26/06 Proof. 2005. PG-13. Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins. A devoted daughter must come to grips with the death of her father, a brilliant math professor who lost his grip on reality.

6/2/06 Father of the Bride. 1991. PG. Steve Martin, Diane Keaton. A nervous father must come to terms with his young daughter's marriage. A remake of the classic comedy about the trials and tribulations of planning a wedding.

6/9/06 My Best Friend's Wedding. 1997. PG-13. Julia Roberts, Dermot Mulroney. Two friends vow that if they remain unmarried at age 28, then they will marry each other. As the year approaches, everything in their relationship suddenly changes.

6/16/06 The Wedding Planner. 2001. PG. Jennifer Lopez, Matthew McConaughey. A wedding planner makes a career out of creating romance for other people, but her own love life suffers as a result. When she finally meets Mr. Right, there's a hitch: he's engaged to one of her clients.

6/24/06 Four Weddings and a Funeral. 1994. R. Hugh Grant, Andie McDowell. This subtle British comedy revolves around a group of friends, their relationships, their weddings, and one funeral.

6/30/06 The Wedding Date. 2005. PG-13. Debra Messing, Dermot Mulroney. A single woman hires a date to accompany her to her younger sister's wedding. A comedy of errors ensues.

Movie summaries courtesy of www.imdb.com

All movies are free and open to the public.

Refreshments served by the Friends of the Library.