



BOOKMARKS

FRIENDS OF THE SCARSDALE LIBRARY

Spring 2010

From the President

In the summer and autumn of 2009, the Friends of the Scarsdale Library (the "Friends") worked on a rich array of projects for the library. The more than 15 children's programs sponsored by the Friends included chess classes, a learning to build innovatively with Legos class, as well as programs which honored Indian and Chinese culture. We produced another record-breaking Book Sale (for further information, please see our website, www.scarsdalelibrary.org/friends); presented a performance by the accomplished jazz bassist Jay Leonhart; and hosted four author events, culminating in the appearance of Scarsdale hometown boy and *New York Times* journalist Andrew Ross Sorkin, who spoke to an audience of 175 people on his best-seller, *Too Big To Fail*.

We provided funding for a library catalog kiosk, which is a machine that provides catalog access near the second-floor book collection. We sponsored the purchase and installation of equipment to conserve the Scott Room piano. The Teen Space redesign and library book vending machine, "Library Express," which is located near the Scarsdale train station, are ongoing programs which the Friends continued to support. Also, after listening to the wishes of so many in the community, we asked the library staff to look into the development of a more expansive DVD collection. The library staff responded positively and is in the process of fulfilling this request.

Most saliently, as a result of the arduous work performed by the Library Trustees, we were thrilled to welcome to our community new Library Director, Elizabeth (Beth) Bermel.

Beth has already begun sharing and implementing a host of new ideas to enhance the library, from new programs and technologies to cost-saving ideas. We look forward to supporting Beth and her plans to strengthen our library.

Spring promises to be equally brimming with Friends-supported projects: our jazz series continues, with vocalists Karen Mason performing at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, and Joan Crowe performing at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 2. In conjunction with the library staff, the Friends will help present four author events: *The Castle on the Parkway*, by Gerard J. Pelisson and James A. Garvey, III, on Sunday, February 28 at 3 p.m.; *This Book is Overdue*, by Marilyn Johnson, on Sunday, March 21 at 3 p.m.; *On the Front Lines of the Cold War*, by Scarsdale resident and former Foreign Editor of the *New York Times*, Seymour Topping, on Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.; and *Watching Walter Kronkite*, by Austin Ken Kutscher, M.D., on Sunday, May 16 at 3:45 p.m.

As described later in this issue, the Friends will begin communicating with the community via e-mail in the near future. We look forward to that, but we especially look forward to seeing you at the library!

Ruth Kohn, President
Friends of the Library

Thank You

Many thanks to the Gelblum family for donating a beautiful Japanese maple tree to the Library, and to Mike McGowan of Bartlett Tree Experts for transplanting the tree.

From the New Library Director

The first few months of my tenure here in Scarsdale have flown by! It's no wonder; there is so much going on. We are busy working on ways to make the library a great place for you—inside the library, in the community and from the comfort of home.

We look forward to launching Library Express, the innovative book vending machine located at the Scarsdale train station. Patrons will be able to scan their card, view the inventory on the screen, choose books, and walk away with reading material. We have room for up to 400 books in the machine, so please tell us what you want. Check our website, scarsdalelibrary.org, for updates and frequently asked questions. You can also e-mail us at scarsdalelibx@wlsmail.org to suggest titles or types of books to be available in Library Express. NOTE: Only books that have been checked out from Library Express can be returned to the machine. It is not a book drop for materials checked out at the library.

We are also looking forward to the redesign of our space for young adults. We have surveyed local teenagers, and I will be talking to the Scarsdale Teen Center's Teen Board to get their input on the space. We will soon have a more flexible, appealing space for teens.

Do you need an audio book in the middle of the night? Did you forget to pick up a book on CD for your commute before the library closed on Sunday? Did you know that you can download audio books to your PC and then play them on your MP3 player or iPod? Go to www.westchesterlibraries.org/node/1663 to browse the titles, then download your selection, and away you go. This service is available 24/7 and there are never any fees or overdue fines.

As more people are sticking closer to home for entertainment, we will be increasing our program offerings. Check our calendar for more frequent author events and other programs. As always, we thank the Friends of the Scarsdale Library for their support in all of our endeavors, particularly regarding Library Express, the Teen Space and a variety of ongoing programs.

Elizabeth (Beth) Bermel
Library Director

Teens - Be a Source!

Librarians pride themselves on going to the right source for information, and we need information from you on what you want from the Scarsdale Public Library. We're forming an advisory board of high schoolers to help us re-design the library's Teen Space, plus help us plan programs and services tailored just for you. Interested in lending a hand? Please e-mail the Library Director at scarsdalelibraryteens@gmail.com, and we'll get started from there.

On the Web

We have all heard of Wikipedia as a useful source of free information on the Internet. If you are interested in life-long learning, there are other websites similar to Wikipedia. The Earth Portal, www.earthportal.org, bills itself as a comprehensive resource for timely, objective, science-based information about the environment. The global scientific community has come together to provide expert information on a variety of topics. The core of the website is an encyclopedia about the earth with 3,500 articles. There is also a forum and a news section.

The Academic Earth, www.academicearth.org, is a terrific resource for free video courses and lectures in a variety of disciplines, such as architecture, history, literature, religious studies, etc. The lecturers are on the faculty of well-known institutions, such as Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, Princeton and Yale, to name a few.

Open Culture, www.openculture.com, aims to centralize high quality cultural and educational media for the worldwide lifelong learning community. You will find free audio books, courses, podcasts, movies and language lessons to access and download through a variety of formats. This website is best suited for the technologically savvy person.

Ann-Marie Cutul
Reference Librarian

The Children's Corner

The big news around the Children's Room is our book clubs. The second grade book club, run by children's librarian, Eileen Corbett, has been full since its inception in October. Our third/fourth grade book club had to be split into separate grades because of overcrowding. This group is run by part-time librarian, Suzy Bomgardner. We are thrilled that the children are getting excited about reading and discussing books. We also have book clubs for grades 5-9 run by part-time children's and retired Fox Meadow librarian, MaryAllen McAden, which are doing very well. As always, we order paperback copies of the books for discussion and give them to the children to keep.

The Friends of the Library continue to generously sponsor our special monthly programs which are offered on Saturdays. This month's event is Silly Songs with Kurt Gallagher on January 9th, followed by a Chinese New Year Celebration with Norma Chang on February 6th, an appearance by Miss Gigi on February 27th, and Bubblemania on March 20th. We will be giving out tickets to Bubblemania as it always causes quite a stir, and we will also be having 2 shows to accommodate the crowds.

Chess with John Gallagher will begin February 23 and run through March 23 on Tuesday nights. We always have a great turn-out, and John is patient and knowledgeable. Players of all levels are welcome - beginning with those in first grade.

Our regular programs, Mother Goose Time, Toddler Time, Parachute Playtime, Storytime, Wag Your Tale, Musical Munchkins, Mommy and Me Yoga, and Kiddie Kabaret all continue in the winter. The schedules for these programs can be found on our website: www.scarsdalelibrary.org.

The children's library is a great place to come in and enjoy a good book or catch a fun program in our warm and cozy atmosphere.

Karen Zielinski
Head of Children's Services

Young Adult News

Baby it's cold outside. What could be more perfect on a cold snowy day than to cuddle up with one of our new YA books: *The Lost Embel*, *Little Black Lies*, *We Were Here*, *Splendor: A Luxe Novel*, *Hamlet*, *Princess of the Midnight Ball*, *Dormia*, *Hush*, *Hush*, and *Portman and the Fat Cat*. Our series collections are growing. These include *Gossip Girls*, *Alex Rider Adventures*, *A-List*, *Pretty Little Liars*, and *Twilight*. The shelves are bountiful with wonderful graphic novels: *Absolute Sandman*, *Absolute Death*, *the Fruits Basket series*, *Macbeth: The Graphic Novel*, and *Jane Eyre: The Graphic Novel*.

When Jack Frost is knocking at your door, tell him you are busy with a wonderful YA read.

Claudette Gassler
Young Adult Librarian

The Friends Are Going Green

Over the next few months, the Friends will be increasing our communications with our contributors and the community by e-mail; thus, it is crucial that we obtain the e-mail addresses of all those interested in receiving periodic notices from us. Even "Bookmarks" will be sent via e-mail in the future. The enclosed envelope contains a space where you can provide us with your e-mail address, if you wish.

Save Your Books, CDs and DVDs

Reminder: If you plan on discarding any books, CDs, DVDs or audio books in the near future, please consider saving them for our annual Book Sale. The Sale will be held in September. We begin accepting donations at the library on July 5, 2010. Thank you.

Contributions

We thank all of our supporters for the donations that make projects like these possible. If you would like to make a contribution to the Friends, please use the enclosed envelope.

WHAT SCARSDALE IS READING

Fiction

The Help, by Kathryn Stockett
U is for Undertow, by Sue Grafton
Wolf Hall, by Hilary Mantel
Lacuna, by Barbara Kingsolver
Half Broke Horses, by Jeannette Walls

Non-Fiction

Super Freakonomics, by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner
What the Dog Saw, by Malcolm Gladwell
Stones into Schools, by Greg Mortenson
Imperial Cruise, by James Bradley
Open, by Andre Agassi
Game Change, by John Heilemann

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING...

- Julie & Julia
- Angels & Demons
- Inglorious Bastards
- Public Enemies
- The Hurt Locker

Library Wish List

Renovate Library Plaza/Main Entrance	\$150,000
Renovate Local History Room	50,000
Digitalization of historical local newspapers, photographs, documents	100,000
Refurbish group & individual study rooms	10,000

The Friends of the Scarsdale Library is a nonprofit organization that supports the Scarsdale Library through mostly volunteer service and cultural and educational activities.

The Friends gives financial assistance to fund the continuing improvement of Library facilities, collections and programs and serves as a conduit through which gifts and memorials go directly to the library.

Bookmarks

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Published by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library
Ruth Kohn, President
Lauren Wyler Smith, Vice President
Betsy Bohrer, Treasurer
Kathy Gray, Secretary

Library Hours

Mon. Tues. Wed. 9-9 p.m. Thurs. 9-6 p.m.
Fri. Sat. 9-5 p.m. Sun. 12-5 p.m.
Library Information: 722-1300
Automated renewal: 674-4169
www.scarsdalelibrary.org