

313 Elizabeth Street

Derby, Connecticut 06418

203-736-1482 • 203-736-1419 Fax

www.derbypubliclibrary.org



Family Place Library
Network Member



Harcourt Wood Memorial
Established 1902

Hours:

Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thurs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Handicap
Accessible

VOL. 5 ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2010

MARCH



Happy St.
Patrick's Day

- 1** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. req.*
6:30 p.m. **Zumba Fitness Class** w/Maria Donofrio. (ages 18+) Reg. req.*
- 3** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me!** (6-12 mo.) Registration required.*
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Teen Game Night** (Young Adults ages 12-17)
- 4** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mo.) Registration required.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (24-36 mo.) Registration required.*
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Knit-Teen!** (ages 12-17) w/Phyllis Kosar. Reg. req.*
3:45 p.m. **Kidspirit Yoga** (gr. K-3) presented by Dianne King. Reg. req.*
- 5** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (3-5 yrs.) Registration required.*
- 8** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. req.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration req.*
- 9** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Social Security Information Specialist**, Maria Grice. Walk-in basis.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Young Adult Advisory Meeting.** (ages 12-17)
6:30 p.m. **Top Ten Stories in the Valley** w/ Susan Hunter. Reg. req.*
- 10** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me!** (6-12 mo.) Registration required.*
5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. **St. Patrick's Day** Cooking Demo (ages 12-17) presented by Stacey Ference. Reg. required.*
- 11** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mo.) Registration required.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (24-36 mo.) Registration required.*
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Knit-Teen!** (ages 12-17) w/Phyllis Kosar. Reg. req.*
3:45 p.m. **Kidspirit Yoga** (gr. K-3) presented by Dianne King. Reg. req.*
- 12** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night presents **Bingo for Books.** Registration req.*
- 15** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. req.*
- 16** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon **Career Development Workshop. Resume Basics.** Registration requested.*
- 17** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me!** (6-12 mo.) Registration required.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 18** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mo.) Registration required.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (24-36 mo.) Registration required.*
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Knit-Teen!** (ages 12-17) w/Phyllis Kosar. Reg. req.*
3:45 p.m. **Kidspirit Yoga** (gr. K-3) presented by Dianne King. Reg. req.*
- 19** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (3-5 yrs.) Registration required.*
10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **CT Works Career Coach** presents **Job Search Assistance.** Registration requested.*
- 22** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
- 24** WEDNESDAY
12:30 p.m. **Lunchtime Book Discussion** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Bring a sandwich and a friend. Registration requested.*
- 25** THURSDAY
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Knit-Teen!** (ages 12-17) w/Phyllis Kosar. Reg. req.*
- 27** SATURDAY
10:00 **Spring Time Craft** (ages 5-11) Registration requested.*
11:30 a.m. **Read to Sandy** (ages 5-11). Registration required.*
- 29** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. Cooking Demo, **Cooking with Herbs . . .** presented by Stacey Ference. (ages 18+) Registration required.*
- 31** WEDNESDAY
3:45 p.m. **Drama & Movement Series** w/Little Actors Workshop. (K-3) Registration requested.*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
April**

April Showers



Bring May Flowers

- 1** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Knit-Teen!** (ages 12-17) w/Phyllis Kosar. Reg. req.*
- 2-3** FRIDAY & SATURDAY
CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY & HOLY SATURDAY.
- 6** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon **Career Development Workshop. Where Are All the Jobs?** Registration requested.*
- 7** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me!** (6-12 mo.) Registration required.*
3:45 p.m. **Drama & Movement Series.** (K-3) Registration requested.*
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Teen Game Night** (Young Adults ages 12-17)
- 8** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mo.) Registration required.*
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3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Knit-Teen!** (ages 12-17) w/Phyllis Kosar. Reg. req.*
- 9** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night presents **Green Gal** (all ages). Reg. req.*
- 12** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **National Library Week Teen Zone Raffle** (ages 12-17) 4/12 - 4/16. Play DPL Spring Vacation Trivia and win prizes!
10:30 a.m. **Chromatography Garden** (gr. 1+) Registration required.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration req.*
- 13** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Social Security Info. Specialist**, Maria Grice. Walk-in basis.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Young Adult Advisory Meeting.** (ages 12-17)
6:00 p.m. **Read to Sandy** (ages 5-11). Registration required.*
6:30 p.m. **Going Native** with Susan Quincy. Registration requested.*
- 14** WEDNESDAY
10:30 a.m. **Sparkles the Clown.** (ages 4+) Registration requested.*
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **YA Jewelry Pendant Making** (ages 12-17). Reg. req.*
- 15** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Knit-Teen!** (ages 12-17) w/Phyllis Kosar. Reg. req.*
- 16** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **CT Works Career Coach** presents **Job Search Assistance.** Registration requested.*
10:30 a.m. **The Scoop on Dirt** w/Jean Mai (gr. 1+) Registration req.*
- 17** SATURDAY
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Annual Spring Book Sale begins.**
- 19-20** MONDAY & TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Book Sale continues.
- 21** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me!** (6-12 mo.) Registration required.*
3:45 p.m. **Drama & Movement Series.** (K-3) Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
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- 23** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (3-5 yrs.) Registration required.*
- 26** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration req.*
- 27** TUESDAY
6:30 p.m. **A Revolutionary Railroad**, w/Bob Belletzkie. Reg. requested.*
- 28** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me!** (6-12 mo.) Registration required.*
12:30 p.m. **Lunchtime Book Discussion** *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. Registration requested.*
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- 30** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (3-5 yrs.) Registration required.*

*For more information call (203) 736-1482 or go to www.derbypubliclibrary.org and click on EventKeeper.

OF THE DIRECTOR



Cathy Williams

*We do not stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing.*

—Benjamin Franklin



The above quote has always been a favorite of mine. With the arrival of spring, often thought of as a time of awakening, I thought it was a great time to share it. My wish for everyone this season is to “awaken” the child within yourself and play!

Spring, specifically April, is a busy time in the Library World. April 11-17 is National Library Week. Just to remind everyone, NLW is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April. First recognized in 1958, it is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. This year’s theme is *Communities Thrive @ Your Library*. This was never truer than at our own Derby Public Library as is demonstrated by the figures below:



- Total Library circulation last year was 69,248, an increase of 9% from the previous year.
- Last year the Library’s public access computers were used by 22,875, up 17% from the year before.
- A total of 452 programs were presented at the Library last year, up 13% from the previous year.
- There was a total program attendance of 10,447 up 30% from the year before.

In addition, the Library is often used by other city departments, including the Board of Education and the Derby Police Department for meetings and workshops, by tutors working with students, by family agencies, including the Valley Family Resource Center the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, and by various other agencies, including the Valley Council of Health and Human Services and the Valley Community Foundation. There can be no dispute that here in Derby, our *Community Thrive @ the Derby Public Library!*

Again this year, in recognition of National Library Workers Day, celebrated on April 13, I would like to acknowledge the staff of the Derby Public Library: Kathy Wilson, Ann Mirisola, Sue Sherman, Carol Wiencko, Bernadette Bahner, Mary Bisaccia, Lorraine Piazza, Grisel Dzwiewit, Tony DeLos, Rich Oraziotti, and Brian Karkut. Their hard work is greatly appreciated!

The support and leadership of the Library Board of Directors is imperative to providing the community with the services it needs. Thank you to Dorothy Gleason, Charles Stankye, Jr., Lillian Comboni, Jo-Ann Cecarelli, Mary Rogers, Kathi Ducharme, Maria Donofrio, Barbara Barry and Geri Fallon for their dedication.

Another important week to recognize is National Volunteer Week, this year celebrated April 18-24. A volunteer not only gives time and expertise without expecting monetary compensation, but also inspires others by example. The following people have indeed been an inspiration throughout this past year: Marie Chebro, Phyllis Kosar, Marion Watson, Julio Maldonado, Christopher Ochoa, Alice Pokladowski, Alice Lombardi, Dorothy Palazzi, Angie Moffat, Josephine DiFazio, William Barr, Vi Madura and Vanessa Bryant. Many thanks to all!

Just in time for Spring School Vacation week, we have added a new museum pass to our already substantial list. Now a family of up to two adults and two children may visit Connecticut’s Old State House for free. A complete list is available at both circulation desks and on-line at www.derbypubliclibrary.org.

Closing Thought (another favorite of mine):

*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take,
but by the moments that take our breath away.*

— Anonymous

Going Native

The landscaping program, Going Native, has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 PM, just in time for the upcoming gardening season. Susan Quincy, Environmental Educator at the Kellogg Environmental Center, will inform participants how to use native plants for backyard gardening, water/pond gardens, and landscaping. Lists to help make better choices of plants will be available. Registration is requested.



STAFF BOOK PICKS

Cathy Williams	<i>Game Change</i> by John Heilemann & Mark Halperin
Sue Sherman	<i>Bedtime in the Jungle</i> by John Butler (Children’s Room)
Kathy Wilson	<i>Still Alice</i> by Lisa Genova
Ann Mirisola	<i>True Believer</i> by Nicholas Sparks
Carol Wiencko	<i>The Shack</i> by William P. Young
Bernadette Bahner	<i>Stones into Schools</i> by Greg Mortenson
Tony DeLos	<i>A Clockwork Orange</i> by Anthony Burgess (Young Adult)
Mary Bisaccia	<i>The Little Stranger</i> by Sarah Waters
Lorraine Piazza	<i>Heat Wave</i> by Richard Castle
Grisela Dzwiewit	<i>Ropemaker</i> by Peter Dickinson (Young Adult)
Brian Karkut	<i>Our Librarian Won’t Tell Us Anything!</i> by Toni Buzzeo (Children’s Room)

Bernadette Bahner

Apple Inc., CEO Steve Jobs recently unveiled its first tablet computer, the *iPad*. The iPad is a sleek half-inch tablet computer with a 9.7 inch touch screen and weighs in at only 1.5 pounds. The iPad has a near life-sized touch keyboard and supports Web browsing. It comes with a built-in calendar and address book and has ten hours of battery life and up to 64GB of flash based storage. With the iPad, you can read e-books, newspapers, listen to music, watch television, run movies, games and a gamut of applications. There will be a version of *iWork* for it as well, allowing users to do word processing and spreadsheets.

Jobs also announced a digital bookstore called *iBooks* that will let users buy from publishers including Penguin, New Corp’s Harper Collins, and Hachette Book Group.

Naturally, the iPad will support the Apple iTunes service, allowing users to easily purchase music, video, and applications. It will also be able to run software developed for Apple’s Smartphone and handheld computers, without needing them to be modified for the larger screen. While this device will have support for the cellular-wireless data, it will not be able to make voice calls.

The iPad will begin to sell in late March. There will be six models starting at \$499 for 16 gigabytes of storage. An extra \$130.00 is needed to equip your iPad with third-generation wireless capability. The good news is that Apple and AT&T have paired up to give iPad users contract free data plans costing as little as \$15 per month for 250MB or \$30 per month for unlimited data. The fee will be pre-paid directly on the iPad.

Also New . . .

- Lockheed Martin, IronKey has announced the ultra-secure “PC on a stick”, the *IronClad* flash drive. It has custom software that allows you to take an entire computer with you for secure use on any public computer. According to the company you can “carry your computer on a keychain with complete security”. The drive is available starting at 8GB capacity and offers 256-bit military grade encryption, built-in virus protection, and rugged water and shock resistant metal casing. The drive works by bypassing the computer’s hard drive and running directly off the flash drive. A very important feature of the IronClad is remote management. Pricing is not yet available, but the companies are currently taking inquiries from interested companies according to Andrew Nusca.

- Consumer tech-msnbc.com writes that up until now, serious gamers had to tote around huge 17 and 15 inch monsters or stay put. Dell’s AlienWare will seek to remedy the problem with its forthcoming game-oriented laptop, the *M11x*. This 11.6 inch laptop has a 1336 by 768 pixel high def screen, a built in Webcam, and a SIM card reader for mobile web access and can play games like “Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare 2” at 30 frames per second. The ultra portable, power-packed gaming laptop will cost just under \$1,000, fully loaded.

- Microsoft has announced a new controller for the Xbox 360 that will allow you to play without a controller. Dubbed *Project Natal*, it will have 3-D motion tracking, voice recognition and facial recognition. It will not be on shelves until Thanksgiving 2010.

FREE BASIC PC CLASSES

- Friday, March 12 - 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, March 17 - 6:30 PM
- Friday, April 9 - 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, April 21 - 6:30 PM

Top Ten Stories in the Valley Over the Past Five Years

The Library will host, *Top Ten Stories in the Valley Over the Past Five Years*, on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 PM. Susan Hunter, Editor of the Valley Gazette, will be the presenter. The Valley Gazette, a local news source for several years, is published weekly by Hersam Acorn Newspapers. Registration is requested.

Sports Talk Series

The fifth season of Sports Talks at the Library will begin on Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 AM. These informal sessions will be held every Thursday morning throughout the baseball season. They will again be facilitated by radio talk show host, author, and Major League Baseball Rules Consultant, Rich Marazzi. Each session will include trivia contests, videos, lively conversation and more. Refreshments are always on hand. All ages, from rookies through veterans, are invited to join Rich and his group of Silver Sluggers. No registration is necessary.

Zumba Fitness Class

A Zumba Fitness Class will be held on Monday, March 1 at 6:30 PM. Ages eighteen and older are invited to come and find out what this popular, calorie-burning, feel-it-to-the-core fitness program is all about. This one day sample class is being offered by local instructor, Maria Donofrio. The Zumba program fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy to follow moves to create a one of a kind program.


Registration is requested and space is limited.

Social Security Information Session

Social Security Specialist, Maria Grice, will be at the Library on Tuesday, March 9 and April 13 at 10:00 AM for informal sessions. Come and find out how to apply for benefits, what benefits are available, on-line services, Medicare, COLA increases, the future of Social Security and more. This is an opportunity to have all your questions answered. Pamphlets and brochures will also be available. No registration is necessary.

Lunchtime Book Discussions

The Help by Kathryn Stockett



The March Lunchtime Book Discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 at 12:30 PM. The New York Times bestseller, *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett is the selected title. This deeply moving story, filled with poignancy, humor and hope is set in 1962. Limited and persecuted by racial divides, three women, including an African-American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a white woman recently graduated from college, team up for a clandestine project. This debut novel is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by and the ones we do not.

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

The Library has scheduled its April Lunchtime Book Discussion for Wednesday, April 28 at 12:30 PM. The New York Times bestseller, *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay is the selected title. This riveting story has been translated into fifteen languages. On the anniversary of the roundup of the Jews by the French police in Paris in 1942, Julia is asked to write an article on this dark episode and embarks on an investigation that leads her onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah. This journey compels her to question her own place in France and to reevaluate her marriage and her life. The use of brilliant subtext, makes this a story that readers will not quickly forget.

Multiple copies of both titles are available at the circulation desk. Participants are encouraged to bring a sandwich and a friend and join in a relaxing hour as they "chat and chew." Dessert and beverages will be provided. Registration is requested.

Annual Spring Book Sale

The kick-off of the Library's Annual Spring Book Sale will coincide with the end of the National Library Week celebration this year. It will begin on Saturday, April 17 from 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM and continue on Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20 from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Shoppers are invited to fill a bag for \$5.00. Bags will be provided. Adult and children fiction and non-fiction, paperbacks, magazines, video and audio materials will be available.

A Message from Miss Sue

Sue Sherman

Congratulations to everyone who completed our **Chill Out and Read** winter reading program! It may be hard to believe, but we have already chosen our summer reading theme...**Make a Splash – Read**. We will be creating an under the sea mural in the Children's Room as part of this ocean/beach themed reading program. Children of all reading levels including pre-readers are encouraged to join us. Further details will be available as summer approaches.

The Children's Room was a very active place throughout the winter months and there is a lot in store for the spring months as well. Registration for **Spring Story Times** will begin on March 22 with classes starting on Wednesday, April 7. **Family Place Parent/Child** workshops will resume on April 26 and run through June 7, with registration starting April 5. For specific age-appropriate story times, please consult the newsletter calendar or contact the Children's Room.

Family Fun Nights return with **Bingo for Books** on Friday, March 12 at 6:30 PM. This promise to be a fun evening out and an opportunity to add to your home library collection with books being awarded to our bingo winners! On Friday, April 9 at 6:30 PM, **Green Gal** will visit the Library. Who is **Green Gal** you ask? She is an earth-friendly heroine who travels to spread the word about how we can all do our share to take better care of the world around us. She brings recycled instruments and shares original songs to entertain her audience. The program is suited for children ages 4 and up. Everyone, no matter how big or small, can do their part to go green!

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Saturday morning programs. On March 27 at 10:00 AM children ages 4-8 may register for **Craft Time** followed by **Read to Sandy** at 11:30 AM for children ages 5-11.

Spring vacation week will include a variety of activities starting with **Chromatography Garden** on Monday, April 12 at 10:30 AM. **Sparkles the Clown** brings laughter to the Library with her comedy magic on Wednesday, April 14 at 10:30 AM. She will also dazzle us with her wonderful balloon sculpting. This program is suitable for children ages 3-11. We end the week with a presentation by Jean Mai of **Science Snoopers**. Discover **The Scoop on Dirt** in this fun and educational science program geared for children ages 4-8, where they will discover what dirt is made of and who needs it.

We celebrate **Week of the Young Child** April 11-17. This year's theme is *Early Years are Learning Years*. This an annual, nationwide week, established in 1971, designated to honor young children through various activities and events throughout communities with the purpose of focusing public attention on the needs of young children and their families.

The Library will take part in the **Play & Learn Fair** on Saturday, April 17 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Warsaw Park in Ansonia. This annual event is a joint venture of local daycare providers and other agencies to offer families with young children an opportunity to experience a hands-on day of activities. The event is free and also provides families with information on resources available to them in the community. For further information on the Play & Learn Fair, check the flyers in the Children's Room.

Join the National Crusade to Promote Healthy Kids

Children's health has always been a concern for parents, but recently even more emphasis has been placed on proper nutrition, physical activity and the necessity of informing the public of what steps can be taken to help put our young people on the path to a healthier lifestyle. Thanks to grant from the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven's Valley Neighborhood Program, the Library will host a series of children's programs addressing these topics.

Kidspirit Yoga will consist of a three week series taking place on Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18 at 3:45 PM. Children in grades K-3 will stretch, strengthen, play games and learn to quiet their body and mind during this 45 minute class presented by Diane King.

On Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 PM, **The Snack Lady (a.k.a. Marla Novia)** will visit the Library to present her theatrical nutrition program based on the motto "nutritious can be delicious". Although the program is geared for children ages 5 and up, younger siblings may attend.

A three week drama and movement series, presented by the Little Actor's Workshop, will take place on Wednesday afternoons at 3:45 PM on March 31, April 7 and 21 for children ages 5-9. The program will engage children to explore their imagination and creativity through music and movement, pantomime, acting games and improvisation. The program will be directed by Maria Douglas of The Magic Storybook.

Please contact the Children's Room for further information on any of the programs. Registration is requested for all programs.

CT Works Career Coach

Job Search Assistance

Friday, March 19, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Friday, April 16, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Career Development Workshop:

Resume Basics

Tuesday, March 16, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Where Are All the Jobs?

Tuesday, April 6, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Cooking Demo

"Cooking with Herbs ... with Helpful Tips for Growing and Using Your Own"

Another cooking demo with Stacey Ference, local professional chef, has been scheduled for Monday, March 29 at 6:30 PM. The topic of the night will be, "Cooking with Herbs...with Helpful Tips for Growing and Using Your Own." This will be a wonderful learning opportunity for both cooks and gardeners as spring arrives. There will be samples of all demonstrated foods. The class is for ages eighteen and over. Registration is required.



Local History

Mary A. Bisaccia

David Humphreys, Poet

When we think of David Humphreys, we usually remember his distinguished service in the Revolutionary War as well as his accomplishments as a diplomat, businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist in the Derby-Humphreysville (now Seymour) area. What is less known about Humphreys is his accomplishments as a poet and writer. Since April is National Poetry Month, let's take a look at some of David Humphreys' creative accomplishments.

David Humphreys entered Yale at age 15 and graduated in 1771 with distinguished honors. While at Yale, he made some influential friends: Timothy Dwight (who later became the President of Yale), John Trumbull (distinguished poet and lawyer) and Joel Barlow (poet and diplomat) and Lemuel Hopkins. This group of friends often wrote together under the collective moniker, "The Hartford Wits."

After college, David Humphreys became a principal of a public school in Wethersfield for two years. Then he was tutor to the youngest of the 11 children of Col. Frederick Philipse at the Philipse Manor House in Yonkers, NY. Col. Philipse was an outspoken Tory.

In 1774, Humphreys returned to New Haven where he was given his Master of Arts degree. He refused an instructorship at Yale and instead, taught at a private school run by his brother Daniel (also a Yale grad, educator and lawyer).

In July 1776, David Humphreys enlisted as a volunteer adjutant to the 2nd Connecticut Regiment, then Washington's army in New York. In 1777, Humphreys was detailed by General Parsons to go to Washington's headquarters in New Jersey where he first met Washington. He was rapidly promoted to captain, major and lieutenant colonel. On June 23, 1780, Humphreys was made an aide-de-camp a Washington's headquarters staff where he became a confidential friend and advisor.

After the surrender of Yorktown, Washington selected Humphreys from all his officers in the Continental Army to represent the Army and its Commander-in-Chief as he appeared officially before the representatives of the newborn nation. When the Treaty of Peace was finally signed in Paris, Sept. 3, 1783, Humphreys wrote a long poem from which this excerpt was taken:

"Swords turned to shares, the war to rural toil.
The men who sav'd, now cultivate the soil.
In no heroic age since time began
Appears so great the majesty of man."

Humphreys used poetry to pay homage to his military superiors. In the following poem titled "Happiness in America," he illustrates the influence that Israel Putnam, General Nathaniel Greene and George Washington had on his young military career:



"I too, perhaps, should Heaven prolong my date,
The oft-repeated tale shall oft relate;
Shall tell the feelings of the first alarms,
Of some bold enterprise the unequalled charms,
Shall tell of whom I learnt the martial art,
With what high chiefs I played my early part;
With parsons first, whose eye with piercing ken
Reads through their hearts the characters of men:
Then how I aided in the following scene,
Death-daring Putnam – the immortal Greene –
Then how great Washington my youth approved."



Humphreys writing skills were held in such high esteem by Washington that he actually asked Humphreys to write his biography when he was out of office. Humphreys had to decline the honor.

The Derby Public Library has the good fortune to possess some of Humphreys' written work. The books are now considered very rare. They include: "The Anarchiad – A New England Poem," in which Humphreys collaborated with fellow "Hartford Wits," Joel Barlow, John Trumbull and Dr. Lemuel Hopkins; "Miscellaneous Works of David Humphreys;" "Some Account of the Serpent of the Ocean... During the Month of August 1817;" "An Essay on the Life of Major General Israel Putnam;" and "Life and Heroic Exploits of Israel Putnam."

These are just a few examples of the many works of David Humphreys. Not an elitist, Humphreys was also known to write and take part in plays to be performed by the workers in his factory in Humphreysville. He saw the literacy of all classes to be a building block of true democracy. Derby, and America are truly fortunate to have had a man of Humphreys' stature in our midst, and he has left us an inspirational legacy.



The New Haven and Derby: A Revolutionary Railroad 1864-1907 & Beyond

The Library will host, *The New Haven and Derby: A Revolutionary Railroad – 1864-1907 & Beyond*, on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:30 PM. Area resident, Bob Belletzkie will be the presenter. Mr. Belletzkie, a University of New Haven Librarian, is the creator of TylerCityStation.info, a web site dedicated to the railroads of southwestern Connecticut. Tyler City was a boom town that sprang up along the New Haven-Derby line in Orange. This line, launched in 1871, was thirteen miles long, connecting Elm City to Ansonia. Adults and young adults are invited to come and learn more about the amazing history of this little railroad that opened the West for New Haven. Registration is requested.

TEEN ZONE

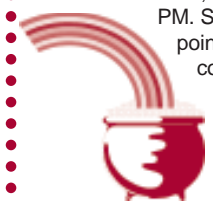
Tony DeLos

Greetings Teen Zoners! The arrival of daylight savings time on March 14 brings longer days, warmer weather and spring - a time of renewal. Appropriately, this spring has brought a renewed connection of the Derby Public Library and the Derby Middle and High Schools. Thanks to Principals Bonina and Thompson, the DPL Teen Zone now has its own specially designated bulletin board at each school. This is yet another way to keep students updated on the many activities available to them at the Library. We are also working on other ways to reinforce this connection and will keep you posted.

Our recently formed **Chess Club** is gaining popularity. Members are treated to top-level instruction by chess professional, Mr. Julio. The club meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. In between, to keep the competitive appetites of our up-and-coming chess aficionados going, a chessboard is available in the Teen Zone. The club welcomes all newcomers and skill levels.

A **cooking demonstration** by local professional chef, Ms. Stacey Ference, has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 at 4:30 PM. She will show young adults the basics, as well as the finer points, of preparing some of the favorite foods of Ireland in commemoration of St Patrick's Day. Of course there will be samples of all demonstrated foods!

Yes, there is an abundance of new skills to be learned here at the Derby Public Library. Miss Phyllis continues her **KnitTeen!** classes, where she is currently guiding her protégés on a group project. They are creating an afghan using multi-colored squares which will be donated to a local convalescent home. Join her in this worthy cause, and more on Thursdays at 3:30 PM through the end of April! Newcomers will learn the basics of manipulating needles and yarn. Did you know the term *yarn* can also be used



as another word for a story, play, or even a movie? I suppose in that context we could refer to the fiction section of any library as a sort of "yarn store".

The winner of the **2010 Teen Nutmeg Book Award** *Life As We Knew It* was determined by votes cast by Connecticut's young adult readers. The new 2011 nominee titles are available, so check out our display in the your "Zone"! We have also added the winners and honorees of several other notable awards, including the **Coretta Scott King** and the **Printz Awards**, to our collection. Just in case there are other authors or titles you think should be part of our young adult collection, we have dusted off our trusty **suggestion box** for your magazine, music, games, graphic novel and book recommendations. Look for it on the fireplace mantle.

April is a very busy month in the Teen Zone. **National Poetry Month**, **National Library Week** and **spring school vacation week** will be celebrated. For those of you who participated in last summer's Tie Dye program, we are pleased to announce the return of **Laurie Lynne**. She will be dazzling you with one of her newest programs of creative crafting on Wednesday, April 14 at 4:00 PM when she will be guiding participants in the creation of their very own, personalized pendant. We will also be treating participants to a **pizza social** immediately following Laurie's program. This year school vacation happens to coincide with



National Library Week. So to commemorate our highly valued mission and reason for our existence – service to our valued young adult patrons – we will be awarding **raffle prizes** at the end of that week. You can earn tickets for the drawing by playing our **Trivia Challenge** and by participating in our programs.

Last but not least, do not forget about our **Teen Game Nights** held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM and our **Teen Advisory Board** meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:00 PM

The only thing left to say is.....see you in the Teen Zone!