



# The Library Times

Avon, Connecticut

Newsletter of the Friends of the Library & the Board of Trustees

September 2011



## Have you driven by the Library lately?

Have you parked in the new parking lot? Have you seen the new community room take shape before your very eyes? Everyone is admiring the brickwork and architecture. Much has been accomplished over the summer and we can't wait to welcome you into our new library with our friendly service, up-to-date technology and innovative programs. It won't be long now, but in the meantime, thank you for your patience and understanding while we are under construction. The changes in hours, the inconveniences...it will all be worth it!

*Virginia Vocelli, Library Director*

## Expansion News

The library construction project is progressing well. When the additions to the building are completed in October, the library staff and services will move into the new section. Thereafter, the existing building will be completely renovated, and the project is expected to be finalized in the Spring of 2012, barring unforeseen delays. We appreciate the understanding and good humor of our patrons and the library staff, as the construction has created some challenging situations.

In July, we received notification that our grant application was approved by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Hartford Foundation grant will fund improvements in the Young Adult Room and common areas, including computers, furnishings, workstations, books and Radio Frequency Identification Technology, a new system that will bring a state-of-the-art approach to the way the library is able to track its collections. This is the largest contribution to the Expansion Fund that we have received, and it resulted in attainment of our \$1 million campaign goal. We are extremely grateful to the Hartford Foundation for this award.

Other capital campaign funds will be used to support enhancements to the building in technology, furniture, signage, electronic bulletin boards, self-check-out stations, programming and collection development. The fundraising effort, chaired by Mark Nolan, will continue through the completion of the project, in order to equip the library with these enhancements and to endow a fund to support future needs.

We are very grateful to all our donors who have made our campaign a success. If you have not already contributed, please consider a donation, which will enable us to incorporate features that will benefit our entire community.

*Mary LaBelle Suter*  
President, Avon Library Board of Directors

## President's Letter

With summer winding down and fall just around the corner, it's time for *the Friends of the Library* Membership Drive. If you are already a member, it's time to renew your Friendship. Your membership is important to the Library, as your contributions support and enhance the special programs and services that otherwise would not be possible. Additionally, only *Friends* receive the newsletter, *The Library Times*, which is published about every other month. As a member, you will be among the first to sign up for any *Friends*-sponsored programs requiring registration. You also will be admitted free of charge to the annual Book Sale on preview night. With the expansion project going along so well, your support is especially important so that we can provide special enhancements. Take a moment to join *the Friends of the Library*. Over 700 of your friends and neighbors agree that we want you to help support one of Avon's finest assets, our Library, where there is something for everyone.

Become a *Friend* today.

*Barbara Leonard*  
President, Friends of Avon Library



## Avon Day is September 24

Thompson Brook School  
This is the 30th Anniversary of Avon Day.  
Visit us at the Library booth.  
Enter to win a Nook!!

## 4th Annual Friends Author Luncheon

Friday, October 14

*Guest speaker:*  
**Pulitzer Prize Winning  
Author Elizabeth Strout**



**Golf Club of Avon  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Ask a friend, join the *Friends*!

*The Friends of the Avon Library* are holding their 4th Annual Author Luncheon with author Elizabeth Strout. Ms. Strout's most recent work, *Olive Kitteridge*, a novel in stories, won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize, was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and was a New York Times Bestseller.

Reservations required; tickets are \$50.00.

More information on [www.avonctlibrary.org](http://www.avonctlibrary.org) or contact Janet Stokesbury at 860-676-7961.

More additional information on the event call Linda Jordano at 860-404-7470 or email: [jjjj4L@comcast.net](mailto:jjjj4L@comcast.net).



## One-on-One Computer Tutor

The library offers one-on-one computer tutoring with a local high school student. You may bring your own laptop or use of the library's computers. Please call the Reference Desk to schedule an appointment; afternoons and early evenings are best.

## Status of Book Sale Donations



*The Friends of the Library* are hoping to be able to accept your gently used books for their annual Book Sale later this fall, when space becomes available for storage of the items. We appreciate your holding on to your donations until we can accept them; it is your generous donations that allow us to have such successful Books Sales. Please check the library web page for donation updates. Thank you for your patience.

## Two National Grants Awarded to Avon Public Library for Civil War Commemoration



Tina Panik and Patrice Celli of the Avon Public Library have been awarded two grants from the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

The first grant is "Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War." The project consists of a five-part series of reading and book discussions, which will be led by Dr. Matthew Warshauer, Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University.

The book series will take place January through May, 2012. Each program will focus on different perspectives of the Civil War through works of historical fiction, political speeches, diaries, memoirs, biographies, and short stories. The first three lectures will be held at the Avon Congregational Church on Rt. 44, and will take place at 7 pm on: January 11, 2012, February 8, 2012, March 7, 2012.

The second grant is a national traveling exhibit titled, "Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War." This exhibit will be installed in the newly renovated community room during Fall 2012. "The exhibit will identify three crisis: the secession of the Southern states, slavery, and wartime civil liberties, and explores how Lincoln sought to meet these political constitutional challenges."

Both of these grant-funded programs will serve as a continuation of the Avon Library's commemorative celebration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, a collaborative community project that began in March 2010. The goal is to provide a better understanding of the Civil War and promote discussion of the complex issues of this period in American history.

Look for more details as these events draw closer!

## Civil War Programs:

### An Afternoon with Walt Whitman

A dramatic one man performance by Stephen Collins.  
1:00 pm Tuesday, October 4 • Avon Senior Center

### Up Close and Personal:

### The Everyday Life of the Union Soldier

Presented by James Genco  
7:00 pm Thursday, October 13  
West Avon Congregational Church

Register for programs online at [www.avonctlibrary.info](http://www.avonctlibrary.info) or by calling 860-673-9712.



Everyone at the Library would like to thank the members of The Garden Club of Avon for the lovely flower arrangements that grace our circulation desk each week. Both the staff and the library patrons enjoy the artistry and color of the fresh flowers. Thank you.



## New Policy for Museum Passes

Museum Passes will now be available on a first come, first serve basis. You no longer need to make a reservation. If the pass is available, it is yours to check out!

## The Homebound Program

The library offers a Homebound Service to all Avon residents who are homebound, either temporarily or permanently. If you, or someone you know, would like Library items delivered to your home please call to set up the service.

We have volunteers ready to pick up and deliver library items.

Homebound patron Pauline Vehslage visits the library with library volunteer Anne Fitzgerald.



Melissa as a baby in the library preschool area

Volunteering at a teen program



Scooping at our ice cream social

## Our Summer Intern!

Thank you to our wonderful summer intern, Melissa Crichton. Melissa was one of many wonderful candidates for this summer's library intern program. She became a library patron here at the Avon Library 19 years ago when she was just a baby! She attended story-time, became a teen library volunteer, assisted with programs. As summer intern she gained work experience by assisting in each department, giving a hand in cataloging books, checking out materials, creating displays and recommending books. Now that the summer is

over Melissa has returned to Southern Connecticut State University where she will continue her studies in Nursing.

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Over the past year the library has received generous donations in memory of Nancy Swain, who was a longtime, devoted library user. She especially enjoyed listening to books on CD, so we purchase new titles with her in mind.

### New purchases:

Blood Money by David Ignatius

Carte Blanche by Jeffrey Deaver

Road to Appomattox by Robert Hendrickson

Silent Girl by Tess Gerritson

Understanding The Fundamentals of Classical Music Professor Richard Freedman (Modern Scholar Series)

From Here to Infinity: An Exploration of Science Fiction Literature Professor Michael D.C. Drout (Modern Scholar Series)

Man Walks Into A Room by Nicole Krauss

Buried Secrets by Joseph Finder

Union Quilters by Jennifer Chiaverini

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand



# TO ALL OUR FRIENDS, NAMED BELOW, THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP

## IN THE FRIENDS OF THE AVON PUBLIC LIBRARY!

With this issue of the newsletter our new membership year begins. Your donations of time and money make the Avon Public

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# SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

## *The Power of the Card!*



### Commemorative Bricks for the landscaped courtyard



Avon residents ordered nearly 300 inscribed bricks for our new landscaped courtyard! Thank you for your generosity and support.

### BOOK DISCUSSIONS

This fall we will offer two book discussions on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30. Professor Nels Highberg, from the University of Hartford, will lead the discussions.

November 3, 2011

The Plague  
by Albert Camus

December 1, 2011

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks  
by Rebecca Skloot

## JOIN NOW!

**Friends of the Avon Free Public Library**  
**281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT 06001**



Individual / Senior ..... \$10  
Senior couple ..... \$15  
Family Bookworms ..... \$25  
Booklover ..... \$50-\$99  
Bibliophile ..... \$100-\$199  
Book Collector ..... \$200 & up

☐ New member      ☐ Renewal

Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Library. Include this form with your tax-deductible contribution and matching gift form if your company participates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Please print **clearly**)

#### I would like to help with:

- ☐ Annual Book Sale (May)
- ☐ Friends Board Member
- ☐ Baked Goods Donation
- ☐ Garden Swat Team
- ☐ Special Projects Volunteer

I wish to receive: ☐ Public Library Notices  
☐ **Friends**-only emails



## Welcome to our new Children's Library Specialist Marisa Gorman!

We have a new librarian! Marisa joins us upstairs in the evenings and specializes in giving great book recommendations!!! She also works in the children's department at Barnes and Noble and has a Master's in Library Science degree from Southern Connecticut State University. Stop by and say hello and ask her what she's reading!! Welcome Marisa!

## Summer Reading 2011!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2011 Summer Reading Clubs- "One World Many Stories!" and "You are Here!" They were hugely successful with over 500 participants ranging in age from 2-18! Readers participated in library programs, completed great reading goals and tracked their reading on reading logs. They brought their reading logs in weekly for a "check-in" and received rewards and raffle tickets towards larger prizes. Check out some fun from some of our Summer Reading events!



Audience participation in the production of "Aladdin" by the Hampstead Stage Company



Fun at the Annual Friends Ice Cream Social - YUMMMY!



Creating shirts at the "Let's Go to Mexico" program

***Thank you to our longtime supporter Farmington Bank and all the following sponsors who helped encourage reading and literacy in our community!***



## KIDS' FALL PROGRAMS

You may notice there are quite a few less programs than usual. Due to construction we have had to limit our available programs. Stay tuned for more programs Winter 2012 in our BRAND NEW STORYTIME/PROGRAM ROOMS!!

Wednesday, September 14, 10:30am- Babies and Books! Storytime for ages 12-24 months, Sign up

Tuesday, September 20, 4:00pm- Bookmates Book Club- Grades 1-3, Sign up

Thursday, September 22, 4:30pm- Intermediate Nutmeg Book Club- Join us to discuss this month's nominee! Grades 4-6, Sign up

## TEEN FALL PROGRAMS

Friday, September 16, 3:00pm- Welcome Back!! Join us to celebrate a new school year- video games, food and fun!  
HELD AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesday, September 27, 2:30- Teen Nutmeg Book Club featuring, "The Compound" by S.A. Bodeen. Grades 7 & 8, Sign up Online!

HELD AT AVON MIDDLE SCHOOL IN MRS. BRENNAN'S CLASSROOM- RM 215



## Fall Film Matinee Series

Avon Library presents afternoon movies  
at the Senior Center • 1:30 pm

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 1  | Laura<br>Vincent Price, Clifton Webb, Dana Andrews, Gene Tierney, Judith Anderson.                  |
| September 8  | How to Steal a Million<br>Peter O'Toole, Audrey Hepburn, Eli Wallach, Charles Boyer, Hugh Griffith. |
| September 15 | A Good Year<br>Albert Finney, Russell Crowe, Marion Cotillard, Abbie Cornish.                       |
| September 22 | Tootsie<br>Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange, Teri Garr, Dabney Coleman.                                |
| September 29 | Angels and Demons<br>Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor, Ayelet Zurer.  |
| October 6    | Walk the Line<br>Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Ginnifer Goodwin, Robert Patrick               |
| October 13   | Devil Wears Prada<br>Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci, Simon Baker.                       |
| October 20   | Two for the Road<br>Audrey Hepburn, Albert Finney.  |
| October 27   | The Other Boleyn Girl<br>Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson, Eric Bana                             |