

VOL. 9 ISSUE 1
January - February 2016
Privately Funded

Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sat. - Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
(Open Sat. & Sun. all year)

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Derby Neck Library
A Regional Library

Currents

The Kerry Boys Return to the Derby Neck Library

Connecticut's premier Irish balladeers, the Kerry Boys, will return to the Derby Neck Library on Saturday, February 20 at 2:00 pm for a performance in recognition of St. Patrick's Day. An annual tradition here at the library, the Kerry Boys will perform a free one hour set of Irish favorites as well as some originals for Derby Neck patrons of all ages.



The Kerry Boys are Mark James, originally from the county Kerry Ireland now a Cheshire, CT resident, and Pierce Campbell, (CT's official State Troubadour 2007/08) from Prospect, CT. These two dynamic and popular Connecticut Irish Balladeers combined their talents to form an exciting Irish music duo over

25 years ago, and have been dazzling audiences from Maine to Pennsylvania ever since. Their humorous, high-energy show will have you clapping and singing along in no time, engaging you from start to finish with their wide collection of traditional and original Irish/Celtic songs.

There is no registration required for this event, but it is a very popular program and seating will fill up quick. Refreshments will be served throughout. The performance is perfect for the whole family so bring the kids! This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Derby Neck Library.

TEEN VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT

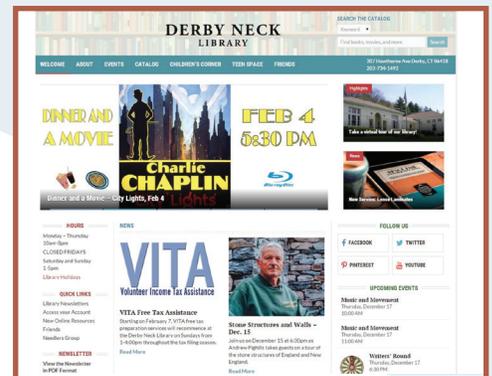
On Saturday, January 16 at 2:00 pm, teens/tweens are invited to take part in a contest of skill, cunning, and just a hint of luck. The **Teen Video**

Game Tournament will feature a huge release on the Wii U, Super Mario Maker! Defeat the most specially-chosen levels and win the grand prize! Depending on the number of players, there may be more prizes to be won.

Registration is not required so bring a friend! Refreshments will be served throughout.



Over a century of service
to the Valley Community



a new year, a new look

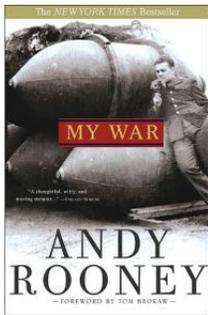
It's 2016 and for the Derby Neck Library, that means a few changes are coming your way. First, as you read this newsletter, you may notice the new look. We've changed the fonts, the colors, and the layout, but all the great content and descriptions of programs are left intact. And there's a hidden symbol in the new design that has special significance to the library. Can you spot it?

But, that's not the only change. Head over to www.derbynecklibrary.org and see our new and improved Website. We have spent many months preparing and editing it to make sure that we offer the best Web experience we can for all of our patrons, whether on a traditional PC, a tablet, or your smartphone. Check it out on all three!

The next time you're in the library and need a computer, you will notice that we have some beautiful new task chairs. These modern chairs have some great new features such as ergonomic design, adjustable height, and 3D rocking motion. They're very comfy and once you get used to them, they're great for your back and posture.

Lastly, the library will be offering a new convenience for patrons who have accrued fines: payment via credit/debit cards. This new service will roll out in mid-January and will allow you to pay for fines with your credit card for a small 5% fee.

These are just some of the great new features we have on offer in the New Year and we will continue working to make the Derby Neck Library the best library we can be. Here's to 2016 and beyond!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Patricia E. Sweeney

The library is honored to own some signed copies of books by well-known authors. In our locked archives are *My War* signed by Andy Rooney and *John Adams* signed by David McCullough. Among noted authors for children we own signed copies of *Jip* by Katherine Paterson and *A Year Down Yonder* by Richard Peck.

Literary Club Events

As 2016 starts, make it a New Year's resolution to join one or both of our two clubs devoted to literature. On the third Monday of each month, we host **Women's Forum**, a lunch group that focuses on various topics, primarily short stories, but also occasionally enjoying poetry or history. We meet from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and members are invited to bring a light lunch; the library provides free coffee and tea. On Monday January 18 we will discuss the short stories "*Ted and Angeline*" by Dinah Lampitt and "*Stuff and Sawdust*" by Valerie Thame, both deal with teddy bears. On Monday February 15 we will discuss short pieces devoted to love in honor of St. Valentine's Day. Free copies of all literature for this club are available at the library prior to the meeting days.

The **Evening Book Club** is devoted to novella-length literature, and selections include fiction and memoirs, with some non-fiction on occasion. Award winning authors are the main focus. We meet on the last Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the fireplace seating area in our Reading Room. For Monday January 25 our book is *The Moon is Down* by John Steinbeck. For Monday February 29 we will be reading *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Copies of each selection are available at the library a few weeks before each meeting and can be found on the small, central bookshelf opposite the circulation desk. For questions about these clubs, please speak to moderator, Pat Sweeney.

VITA

Free Tax Preparation Services Begin at the Derby Neck Library

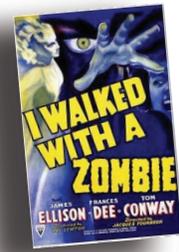
Starting on February 7, VITA free tax preparation services will recommence at the Derby Neck Library on Sundays from 1-4:00pm throughout the tax filing season. Households that earned less than \$54,000 in 2015 may be eligible for VITA's free tax preparation services, provided by IRS-certified volunteers at community centers, nonprofit organizations, and other convenient locations across Connecticut. For individuals and families that qualify, VITA volunteers will work with you step by step to ensure you file accurately and on time. To schedule an appointment, call Team, Inc. at 203-736-5420. For other VITA sites' hours of operation, dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211ct.org or www.irs.gov for directions and hours.

ANDREW'S PICKS

I Walked with a Zombie (Jacques Tourneur, 1943).

In 1920, the Darien-Stamford Review fired a sixteen-year old reporter for fabricating a story about a truckful of Kosher chickens being roasted alive during a New York heat wave. The young man, a Ukrainian-Jewish immigrant whose family had converted to Christianity and adopted the awkwardly Anglicized name "Lewton," went on to earn a journalism degree from Columbia before securing a job in MGM's publicity department. By the early 1930s, young Val Lewton was one of David O. Selznick's assistants, and when Selznick abandoned his wife's father, Louis B. Mayer, to found Selznick International in 1935, Lewton followed his boss. He was responsible for (uncredited) contributions to the screenplays for Selznick's two Best Picture winners, *Gone with the Wind* (1939) and Alfred Hitchcock's *Rebecca* (1940). But Lewton chafed at Selznick's famously tight leash, and in 1942 he left Selznick International for RKO Pictures, where he was named the head of their new horror unit. It was in this capacity that Lewton would become famous to generations of cinephiles as the producer of perhaps the greatest string of horror films ever to come out of

Hollywood, eleven low-budget pictures made over the course of five years, including such classics as *Cat People* (Jacques Tourneur, 1942), *Isle of the Dead* (Mark Robson, 1945), and *The Body Snatcher* (Robert Wise, 1945). Lewton and his directors had a large degree of creative freedom, so long as they made the pictures for less than \$150,000, brought them in under 75 minutes, and let the studio's publicity departments rename them at will. My personal favorite, directed by the great Jacques Tourneur, is *I Walked with a Zombie*, a sort of "Jane Eyre in the Caribbean" that bears all the hallmarks of Lewton's style. It is highly literate, even poetic, with gorgeous black-and-white cinematography and a deeply unsettling atmosphere. Most of all, it eschews the cheap scares and over-the-top grotesquerie of the period's big-budget horror films, opting instead to cultivate an ambiance of dread through sound and shadow, as well as the use of primal, oneiric imagery. The script is so strong, the images are so eerie and powerful, and the film is so genuinely scary that it must rank as one of the greatest horror pictures ever made. Most horror movies at the time were still laboring under the now-distant



influence of German Expressionism, especially as it had been

interpreted by Karl Freund, James Whale, and Tod Browning in the earliest Universal "monster movies" of the 1930s. It was as if *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (Robert Wiene, 1920) and *Nosferatu* (F. W. Murnau, 1922) had been copied so many times that their original brilliance had grown dim, blurry, and ultimately banal. Lewton went back to the original German masters of horror for inspiration — Wiene, Murnau, and Fritz Lang — but he creatively re-interpreted them, softening the harsh edges of German Expressionism (those same harsh edges that were then becoming the foundation of film noir in America), and creating his own, totally unique vision of terror.

Robert Wiene presented the world as a madhouse, with jagged shadows protruding unexpectedly at every angle, symbolizing. But the thing about Lewton's shadows is that you can't even tell where they begin, or where they end. Val Lewton made horror real.

children's corner

Happy New Year! Even though it doesn't feel like it weather-wise, wintertime is upon us. Miss Kathi will be starting her story time and Music and Movement classes again this January. Children will hear about snow, snowmen, sleeping bears, and other winter-related stories. Music will include songs about hot cocoa, snowballs, sleigh rides, and snowmen, as well as other winter activities. These classes are a great way to spend time interacting with your



children and getting some exercise at the same time! Our reading dogs, Thor and Apollo will be stopping by to meet children and listen to stories in January and February. Check the calendar for dates and times. All ages are welcome to spend time with these magnificent Saint Bernard dogs. We will also have Annie, a beautiful yellow lab available to read to. Miss Kathi will also be scheduling some coloring evenings for the grownups. If you haven't spent some downtime coloring and relaxing like a child, you are



missing out on a wonderful pastime pleasure. Also be sure and work on our latest jigsaw puzzle of the Osborne Homestead Museum when you visit the library.

Computer Classes

Learn the basics of Microsoft Word and Excel, email, and how to search the Internet for whatever interests you. Start any day, but you can only attend once a week. Classes last an hour and are held on Mondays at 6pm and Tuesdays/Wednesdays at 10:30am.

Writers' Round

Writers' Round is a club for writers of all sorts to come together and share their work, critiques, and experience. Taking place on the 3rd Thursday of every month, we start every meeting with an inspirational quote on writing and end with a writing prompt for the next meeting.



free homework help

Having trouble with that one math problem on your homework that you just can't get? Need help finishing that book report? From 3pm-5pm Monday through Thursday at the library's Information Desk, students are invited to bring their homework, text books, and other related materials for free tutoring in Math and English from Library staff. There is no registration required for this service, but it is on a first-come, first-served basis. Ask Ian Parsells, the head librarian, for more details.

Dinner and a Movie

Taking place on the 1st Thursday of the month, adults are invited to the library's Dinner and a Movie. Featuring movies new and old on Bluray, this popular program has something for everyone 18 and over! Dinner will be served at the half-way point with refreshments being served throughout. There will be no movie in January, but we will return in February.

Tech Talks

"Tech Talks", the program series that focuses on topics related to modern technology that you may be interested in learning more about, is a recurring program that takes place on the third Wednesday of every month at 10:30am and in the evening on the Monday prior at 6:00pm. Both sessions will happen in the same week. Topics will be announced on fliers in the library and on our Web site.

Teen Film Club

Every Tuesday throughout the year at 4pm, join us for the award-winning Teen Film Club. Learn the ins and outs of amateur film production working alongside fellow teens in areas like writing, directing, acting, and editing. All

work is done in-house and all films produced by the club are put into the library's DVD collection and onto the library's Youtube channel.

smash club for teens

On Wednesdays from 2pm-5pm, teens and tweens are invited to the new Smash Club! Using the library's Nintendo Wii U, teens will play various games on the system, particularly Super Smash Bros. Differing from our regular Video Game Tournaments, Smash Club will be about fun and not competition. Other games that we play will include Mario Maker, Mario Kart 8, the Wonderful 101, Injustice, Tekken Tag Tournament, and more multiplayer games will be purchased as they come out. Whether you're a beginner or a highly-skilled gamer, this club will have something for everyone.

teen movie night

On February 25 at 5:30pm, teens and tween are invited to the Teen Movie Night! Viewers will have a choice of 4 films and will vote on the movie of the day. All movies will be on Bluray. Dinner will be served at the halfway point. Maximum of 20 people allowed. Registration is required to guarantee your seat! The movie selections will be revealed in January.



recurring children's programs

All programs will be drop-in with no registration required. We welcome patrons from all towns to come and enjoy the programs.

Prethrees classes are for ages Birth-3yrs and offer age appropriate stories, finger plays, Nursery rhymes, puppets, coloring pages and music. Name tags and a different theme are provided each week. Classes regularly occur on Mondays at 10am.

Been There Done That Movin' On Twos and Threes is for children who have been coming to the classes for a while and are capable of following more specific directions to musical games and are ready to learn new songs. Each week a different type of instrument is introduced and shared. Classes regularly occur on Tuesdays at 10am.

Toddler Science is for children ages 3 and up. Experiments, books, music and crafts encourage you and your child to explore the world around you. Relearn things you forgot as you work with your toddler to learn about such subjects as space, magnetism, chemistry and physics. Classes regularly occur on Tuesday at 11am.

Music and Movement programs are for ages Birth to 5 and use instruments, scarves and singing to enhance children's language proficiency. Songs and dancing combine to help children learn about rhythm and practice motor skills needed to improve their communication abilities. Scarves and musical instruments add to the fun. Classes regularly occur on Thursdays at 10am and 11am.

2016 Community Puzzle

As part of our Holiday Fun Day in December, we unveiled our new 2016 Community Puzzle! The Community Puzzle is an annual project where patrons are tasked with piecing together a 2000 piece puzzle to reconstruct a historical Derby location. This year, the Osborne Homestead Museum is the featured site. Once finished, the puzzle will be framed and mounted in the library's Common Area along with a memorial plaque thanking all assemblers who worked on it. So if you help assemble the puzzle, don't forget to sign in and be a part of history. If you helped with 2015's puzzle, check it out in the Common Area. Can you spot the hidden cow?



Calendar of Event

January 2016

January 11, 18, 25	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
January 12, 19, 26	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
January 12, 19, 26	Science for Toddlers	11:00 am
January 14, 21, 28	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
January 5, 12, 19, 26	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
January 6, 13, 20, 27	Smash Club! for Teens	2:00–4:00 pm
January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
January 4, 11, 25	Computer classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
January 5, 12, 19, 26	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
January 6, 13, 27	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
January 5, 6, 7	IRS Tax Training for VITA Volunteers	5:00–9:00 pm

I HAVE A DREAM



Martin Luther King Jr.

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January 16	Teen Video Game Tournament – Mario Maker	2:00 pm
January 18	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
January 18	Tech Talks – Evening	6:00 pm
January 20	Tech Talks – Morning	10:30 am
January 21	Writers Round	6:30 pm
January 25	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm

February 2016

February 1, 8, 15, 29	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
February 2, 9, 16	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
February 2, 9, 16	Science for Toddlers	11:00 am
February 4, 11, 18	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
February 2, 9, 16, 23	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
February 3, 10, 17, 24	Smash Club! for Teens	2:00–4:00 pm
February 1, 8, 22, 29	Computer classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
February 2, 9, 16, 23	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
February 3, 10, 24	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
February 6, 13, 20, 27	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
February 7, 14, 21, 28	VITA Free Tax Assistance (appointment only)	1:00–4:00 pm

February 4	Dinner and a Movie for Adults	5:30 pm
February 15	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
February 15	Tech Talks – Evening	6:00 pm
February 17	Tech Talks – Morning	10:30 am
February 18	Writers' Round	6:30 pm
February 20	Kerry Boys Performance	2:00 pm
February 25	Teen Movie Night	5:30 pm
February 29	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm

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New programs are added frequently, so check in the Library and our Website for the most up-to-date schedule.