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March - April 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

Over a century of service
to the Valley Community

Brass Valley: The Fall of American Industry with Emery Roth

Join us on March 22 at 6pm for an amazing look at the Valley's former booming brass industry. Our speaker will be Emery Roth who has compiled unique photos of the Ansonia Copper & Brass Co. into a photography book that he will discuss as well as the history of the brass industry in the Valley.

Emery Roth has been shooting photographs since childhood. He studied both design and language arts at Carnegie-Mellon University, simultaneously earning degrees in architecture and literature. His pictures and his experiences shooting them inspire his writing. After 40 years living and teaching in Connecticut's "Northwest Hills," he became fascinated with the old mill towns of the Naugatuck Valley and their history, and he began following the tracks through old ruins until he was led to the last functioning brass mill.

This is a free program. Registration is requested. Please call the library at 203-734-1492 to register.



VITA Free Tax Preparation Services Continues at the Derby Neck Library

Starting on February 7, VITA free tax preparation services will recommence at the Derby Neck Library on Sundays from 1-4:00 pm 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.

COMPUTER CLASS

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.



Newspapers of the Civil War Era

Join us on Tues., April 26 at 6:30 p.m. as Professor Hamish Lutris of Housatonic Community College, a spirited and informative lecturer, presents a PowerPoint about the first American war to be covered in detail by the press. This is a continuation of the professor's series of talks here at the library. Very exciting and colorful descriptions of battles were filed by reporters of both the North and the South, but accuracy was often a forgotten trait. This is a humorous and entertaining program, as the professor presents it. Learn about the lives of reporters in the 1860s as a unique American era unfolds itself for your pleasure.



For Women's History Month

Pat Sweeney has been researching the Connecticut women who worked for female suffrage one hundred years ago. She has developed a Power Point program that she will present on Tues., March 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Included in this topic are highlights from the lives of the noted women who participated in this movement in Connecticut — one even has special ties to our library. Can you guess who that special lady may be? Come learn about our local heritage and enjoy an engaging talk on how women struggled to get the vote in Connecticut. Humor is always included. For more information, please call the library at 203-734-1492.

ANDREW'S PICKS

The Civil War (Ken Burns, 1990)

It is perhaps unavoidable to look back on the venerable American tradition of adult education, particularly strong here in New England, with a bit of a rueful smile. Our forefathers of old, those favored ones, were graced to hear Emerson and Thoreau and Twain on the lyceum circuit. Ah, but "there were giants in the earth in those days." Our grandparents, after World War II, bought Encyclopaedia Britannica's 54-volume "Great Books of the Western World" set by the tens of thousands—and who among us will doubt that, after a hard day's work at American Brass or Sikorsky or wherever, they dutifully curled up by the fireside with Ptolemy's *Almagest* or Hegel's *Phänomenologie des Geistes*? Nowadays, alas, this proud tradition is all but finished: we listen to a smattering of NPR on the way home from work or max out our monthly allotment of digital New York Times articles and consider our cultural vegetables eaten. And yet, contrary to this lamentable trend, we have the curious fact of Ken Burns' enduring popularity. He is America's favorite documentarian: half the country genuinely loves his films, and the other half at least endures them, because they're good for you and you feel a sense of accomplishment once you've finished them. There is, however, a small cadre of film-lovers who disdain Burns despite (or because of) this popularity, considering his films stylistically archaic, ideologically bourgeois, and, worst of all, "un-cinematic." His fiercest critics use the word "television" a lot, apparently attempting to situate Burns within the "school" of documentary filmmaking that has given us *Guy Fieri*, *Shark Week*, *Barnwood Builders*, and seemingly endless floating-head interviews with Niall



Ferguson, Michio Kaku, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, and that guy with the crazy hair from *Ancient Aliens*. But this absurd reaction to Burns demonstrates the same juvenile attention span and lack of discernment that gave us all that junk on TV in the first place. In my view, Burns is a great director, worthy of being mentioned alongside our best documentarians: Herzog, Morris, Lanzmann, Marker, Flaherty, Apte, Mekas, McElwee, Tsuchimoto, Pennebaker, and the Maysles brothers. His style, far from being unimaginative or dull, is in fact radical in its simplicity. Burns is an ascetic of the cinema, a "Jansenist of mise-en-scène" to borrow André Bazin's delightful assessment of William Wyler. Like Ozu or Bresson, two of the greatest directors who ever lived, Burns limits himself to a bare minimum of techniques: in his case, interviews, archive footage, voiceovers, and (most famously) pan shots and slow zooms of old photographs. This "limitation" is, paradoxically, liberating. Ozu and Bresson, in their different ways, were concerned with a spiritual transcendence or apotheosis, and they created many of the most profound and moving works that the art form has seen. Burns's films, through their sparseness and simplicity, though admittedly far less ambitious, do achieve a kind of secular transcendence that I think has to do with our primal love for stories. Like many of the subjects he features in his films—the great writer Shelby Foote in *The Civil War* (1990) or the Negro Leagues legend Buck O'Neil in *Baseball* (1994) — Burns is above all a master storyteller. His films are long, as indeed they must be, but for me they pass as quickly as a thought—or a lifetime.



Dinner & 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. On March 3, we will watch the science fiction thriller *The Martian*, starring Matt Damon. April's movie will be announced on fliers in the library and on our Web site.

From the Archives . . .

By Patricia E. Sweeney

Sometimes it only takes a small, basic piece of paper to paint us a picture of how our ancestors lived. Found in Frances Kellogg's papers in our library is the following recipe for making Hard Soap:

- 1 can of Babbitt's Lye
- 1 and a half quart of cold water
- 4 and a half pounds of grease
- 2 tablespoons of ammonia
- 2 tablespoons of Borax

Imagine mixing that fine concoction!



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?



teen film club

Every Tuesday throughout the year at 4 pm, 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.

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. In March, we will focus on Microsoft Office PowerPoint. The topic for April will be announced on fliers in the library and on our Web site.

spring into the library

Brrr!! Winter has finally found us but spring is right around the corner! Come warm up at the library with Miss Kathi's Movement and Music Programs.



We will start to leave behind snowballs and "Hot Chocolate" songs as we "Take a walk with Spring" and "Fly our kites" around the community room! Once again songs about sunshine and robins will keep us hoppin' and boppin' along!

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.

WOMEN'S FORUM AND THE EVENING BOOK CLUB EARLY SPRING TOPICS

Come celebrate spring with us as we explore both historical and literary topics. Women's Forum is a lunch-bunch that meets on the third Monday of each month. We serve free coffee and tea. "*The Suffragettes of Connecticut*" (including a noted Derby woman) will be the topic for Women's Forum on Mon., March 21 at 12:30 p.m. This is a PowerPoint presentation by club moderator, Pat Sweeney. On Mon., April 18 at 12:30 p.m. we will discuss two short stories by contemporary author Robert Lorenzi – "*Damage*" and "*Kristi, the Barmaid*." Copies of these two stories are available at our circulation desk prior to the meeting.

The Evening Book Club meets monthly on the last Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Reading Room by the fireplace. We discuss novellas by award-winning authors, and sometimes a memoir. The book for our meeting on Mon., March 28 is *Of the Farm* by John Updike. For our meeting on Mon., April 25 we will discuss *Lady Susan* by Jane Austen. Copies of these books are available prior to each meeting. Come join us for an informative and stimulating evening.

STAFF:

Ian Parsells, Head Librarian

Kathleen Gordon, Children's Librarian

Patricia Sweeney, Reference Librarian

Roberto Carmona, Head of Circulation

Christina Baclawski, Andrew Bisaccia, Kim MacDonald,

Christopher Ochoa, Carol Senfield, Norman Strumello

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Kemmesies, Richard Knoll, John Rak, Bruce Sill, John Walsh

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.



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, 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 video game tournament

On Saturday, March 19 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 Super Smash Bros on the Wii U, with all DLC characters and Gamecube controllers for those who prefer them! 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.

teen choice movie night

On April 14 at 5:30pm, teens and tween are invited to the Teen Choice 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 March.

Calendar of Event

March 2016

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Science for Toddlers	11:00 am
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Movin' Mondays for children	11:00 am
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Smash Club! for Teens/Tweens	2:00–5:00 pm
March 5, 12, 19	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
March 2, 9, 23, 30	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
March 7, 21, 28	Computer classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
March 6, 13, 20	VITA Free Tax Assistance (appointment only)	1:00–4:00 pm



March 3	Dinner and a Movie – The Martian	5:30 pm
March 14	Tech Talks PowerPoint – Evening	6:00 pm
March 15	Women's History Month with Pat Sweeney	6:30 pm
March 16	Tech Talks PowerPoint – Morning	10:30 am
March 17	Writers Round	6:30 pm
March 19	Teen Video Game Tournament – Smash Bros	2:00 pm
March 20	Decorate Spring and Easter Cupcakes	2:00 pm
March 21	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
March 22	Brass Valley: The Fall of American Industry	6:00 pm
March 26	LIBRARY CLOSED (EASTER EVE)	
March 27	LIBRARY CLOSED (EASTER DAY)	
March 28	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm

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April 2016

April 4, 18, 25	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
April 4, 18, 25	Movin' Mondays for children	11:00 am
April 5, 19, 26	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
April 5, 19, 26	Science for Toddlers	11:00 am
April 7, 21, 28	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
April 5, 12, 19, 26	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
April 6, 13, 20, 27	Smash Club! for Teens	2:00–5:00 pm
April 4, 11, 25	Computer classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
April 5, 12, 19, 26	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
April 6, 13, 27	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
April 3, 10	VITA Free Tax Assistance (appointment only)	1:00–4:00 pm



April 7	Dinner and a Movie for Adults	5:30 pm
April 14	Teen Movie Night	5:30 pm
April 18	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
April 18	Tech Talks – Evening	6:00 pm
April 20	Tech Talks – Morning	10:30 am
April 21	Writers' Round	6:30 pm
April 25	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm
April 26	Newspapers of the Civil War with Hamish Lutris	6:30 pm
April 30	Cherry Blossom Festival Brooklyn Bot. Garden	9:00 am

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