

VOL. 10 ISSUE 3
May - June 2017
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



Derby Neck Library Celebrates 120 Years!

With all our new technologies and recent renovations, it may not be apparent, but we are a rather “old” library. In fact, at the end of June, we will celebrate our 120th anniversary. We began with a meeting of neighbors at which Maj. Wilbur F. Osborne, wire manufacturer, dairy farmer, and Civil War veteran, led the discussion to formally establish a library for the “Derby Neck” section of town. No city library existed in Derby at that time. This gathering was held on June 21, 1897 at the Hawthorne School. Also instrumental on the founding committee was Miss Dorcas C. Browning, an energetic teacher in the school who was a friend to the Major and a woman with a progressive outlook on life and learning. Most of the other neighbors involved resided all along Hawthorne Avenue. The wood-frame school’s second floor initially held our collection of books until a separate building was erected in 1906 with a one-time grant from industrialist Andrew Carnegie. That building is currently our Reading Room.

As we end spring 2017 and progress into summer, the library will host activities and events to honor turning 120. Included will be a PowerPoint presentation researched and narrated by Pat Sweeney on the lives of our founders and the library’s unique history. This celebratory program will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m. Included in this PowerPoint will be a “walk” through the library as it appeared in 1999 just prior to our closing for the building of the new addition (1999-2002). See how we looked and operated as the 20th century came to a close!

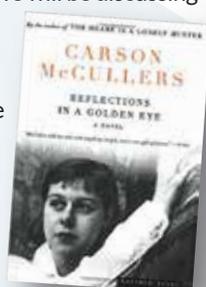
Please watch for additional anniversary plans on our web-site and on the bulletin boards in the library.



Literary Club Events

Women’s Forum, a discussion group that meets on the third Monday of each month at lunchtime, focuses on short stories and local history. On Monday, May 15 at 12:30 p.m., we will be discussing

two short stories by the award-winning author, Carson McCullers – “A Domestic Dilemma” and “Madame Zilensky and the King of Finland.” Copies of the stories are available at our front desk. On Monday, June 19 at 12:30 p.m., Pat Sweeney will present a powerpoint on the history of Derby Neck Library. Attendees are reminded to bring a light lunch if they wish. We serve free coffee and tea.



The **Evening Book Club** meets in our Reading Room, by the fireplace, on the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We read novellas (fiction) by authors of note, and occasionally a memoir. All books selected are available at the library approximately one month before the meeting. On Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. we discuss “Reflections in a Golden Eye” by Carson McCullers and on Monday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. our novella is “Tobacco Road” by Erskine Caldwell. Both are award-winning American authors. Join us for an informative and lively session.

See Our New Circulation Desk



The library was closed to the public from April 22 until the first week of May. What were we up to during this time? Aside from replacing the carpet throughout the entire first floor, we were installing our brand new, custom-built circulation desk! The library’s staff and board of directors worked with architect Jay Willerup of Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC to design a unique desk from the ground up that blends a modern look with the classic aesthetics of the original library. At the same time, this new desk expands available workspace for staff and a proper book drop for patron returns.

The first thing you will surely notice about the new desk is its most unique feature: the floating windows. On the desk’s front, there are backlit, floating windows that mimic the library’s windows in the Reading Room. You may also notice the pillars on the front of the desk also mimic the library’s pillars on the front of the Reading Room’s exterior. We took special care and consideration to ensure these features were prominently displayed with the new desk.

There is so much to appreciate with the new desk as there are lots of little details. We hope you will love and appreciate it as much as we do.

Summer Reading Kicks Off In June!



Summer Reading is back and officially begins in June. For teens, tweens, and young adults, the summer festivities kick off on June 19 with the Readathon and Photo Scavenger Hunt. For babies, toddlers, and children, summer programming will start on June 26. As usual, there will be special events, challenges, and prizes all summer long, so check in the library or on our website for flyers and brochures detailing all the Derby Neck Library has to offer this year!

ANDREW'S PICKS

The Wrong Man (Alfred Hitchcock, 1956).

In Hitchcock, as in Dostoyevsky, the awareness that “each of us is guilty before everyone, for everyone and everything” is experienced as a profound mystical revelation. One of the most extraordinary moments in this film full of extraordinary moments occurs when Vera Miles’s character, Rose Balestrero, learns that her husband Manny (played by Henry Fonda) has been wrongfully arrested for a string of robberies. “I knew it was something like that,” she whispers inexplicably.

Later, when searching for an independent witness who could corroborate Manny’s alibi, the couple encounters two strange, cackling, almost demonic adolescent girls who inform them gleefully that the man they seek is dead. This is the second time that a man who could have proven Manny innocent has turned out, purely by chance, to be dead. Rose breaks down into hysterical laughter. As Jean-Luc Godard pointed out in his seminal essay on the picture for *Cahiers du Cinema*, every scene and every symbol in *The Wrong Man* has its double: “The two imprisonments; the two handwriting tests at the police station; two conversations with Rose in the kitchen; the two hearings. . . . Manny goes twice to the clinic, twice to the lawyer, twice with two policemen into two shops for identification; the spy-hole duplicating the driving mirror; the insurance company is in the same building as the lawyer’s office. . . . Bernard Herrmann’s score is based on two notes, etc.” For the audience, this heightens the sense that God (or Fate), while clearly capricious and probably malevolent, is doubtless also the consummate Artist. (No one ever said the Demiurge didn’t have the heart of a poet.) The “double” motif likewise recalls Dostoyevsky, whose great short novel *The Double* features a protagonist, the unforgettable Mr. Golyadkin, whose life, like Manny’s, is overtaken by a malicious doppelgänger, and who winds up, like Rose, in an insane asylum. Moreover, Hitchcock’s Kafkaesque portrait of the American “criminal justice” system incarnates the paradoxical truth that the “legal” system in fact represents an arbitrary, illegitimate authority. As G. K. Chesterton says in his nightmarish fever dream *The Man Who Was Thursday*, “The common criminal is a bad man, but at least he is, as it were, a conditional good man. He says that if only a certain obstacle be removed—say a wealthy uncle—he is then prepared to accept the universe and to praise God. He is a reformer, but not an anarchist.” Anarchy, as Slavoj Žižek points out in his discussion of Chesterton’s novel, “already exists in the guise of the existing rule of law, so that the antagonism between law and crime reveals itself to be. . . . the antagonism between universal and particular crime.” The “legal” investigation in *The Wrong Man* is a stark picture of irrationality, forcing Manny through one bizarre ritual after another. Under the gaze of Hitchcock’s camera, the fingerprinting, the handwriting tests, the lineup, and most of all the eerie processions through the shops gain a definite, though certainly perverse, liturgical quality. (Like many great directors — Scorsese, Bresson, and Fellini among them — Hitchcock’s formative influence was the pre-Vatican II Catholic Mass.) And in Henry Fonda’s face, which Godard compares to “that of the young Alcibiades described by Plato in *The Symposium*” we find (in yet a further paradox) “no beauty that we should desire him.” Emmanuel Balestrero, the condemned innocent, is the “*Man of Sorrows*, acquainted with infirmity,” whose symbolic crucifixion occurs when his mad wife strikes him with her hairbrush. Unlike Christ, however, Manny does not suffer the supreme trial of death itself; instead, like Job, he simply regains his good fortune as arbitrarily as he lost it in the first place. What are we to make of this “miracle”? Éric Rohmer and Claude Chabrol, in their classic study of Hitchcock, insist that “The idea of redemption is grafted onto all the others. . . . Hitchcock has no intention of ridiculing this idea of Providence.” Perhaps not. The scene in question, which shows an icon of the Sacred Heart, cuts to Manny’s face murmuring a prayer, then dissolves into the doppelgänger’s face as he begins his final hold-up, may seem obvious at first glance; though as Rohmer and Chabrol also note, “The ambiguity is in things themselves. It is characteristic of Hitchcock to show us both sides of the coin. His work moves between two poles which, like extremes, can meet. . . . It here finds its most noble expression in the idea of the interchangeable guilt of all mankind.” This brings us, in somewhat circuitous fashion, back to Dostoyevsky. But the ultimate irony of *The Wrong Man* is that its miracle, unlike, say, the resurrection of the dead at the end of Carl Theodor Dreyer’s *Ordet* (1955), actually happened. As Hitchcock himself says in the film’s prologue, “The difference lies in the fact that this is a true story, every word of it. And yet it contains elements that are stranger than all the fiction that has gone into many of the thrillers that I’ve made before.” Aristotle, quoting Agathon, says in the *Poetics* that “It is a part of probability that many improbable things will happen.” In Godard’s words, Hitchcock’s “only criterion is exact truth. We are watching the most fantastic of adventures because we are watching the most perfect, the most exemplary of documentaries.”



children's corner



Spring seems to finally be on the way so what better time to get out of the house with your little ones and enjoy the sunshine. As you make your plans for the day, consider stopping by the Derby Neck Library in the morning for some stories and/or music with Miss Kathi. You can get your workout in by dancing with your child and then spend some time in the children’s area and check out all the new materials available to share with your family while your child has a chance to play with the new improved train table coming soon. Don’t forget that we have children’s Amazon Fire tablets available for use in the library. Just ask at the circulation desk and you can check them out for your child to play with while in the library. They have lots of children’s games available and are internet safe. These make a nice addition if the children’s computer is in use. Plans are underway for Summer Reading 2017. This year’s theme will be about *Animals and Art*. Keep an eye on the webpage and facebook for more info.

- Miss Kathi



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. May’s movie will be the academy-award winning blockbuster *La La Land*. June’s movie will be announced on flyers in the building and on our site.

Staff Picks

Check out our new “Staff Picks” selections in our lobby. Staff will pick fiction, nonfiction, movies, and music that they think you might be interested in. Each staff member will be encouraged to draw from their personal interests to make recommendations and pull those selections from the shelves. Each selection will have a short write-up (spoiler free!) highlighting why they think you will enjoy it. We will rotate selections out every few months to keep things fresh and to give all staff the chance to participate.

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. Check flyers in the library and on the Web site for topics.

teen events

Smash Club for Teens

On Wednesdays after school, teens and tweens are invited to the new **Smash Club!** Using the library's Nintendo Wii U and Dreamcast, teens will play various games on the systems, particularly Super Smash Bros. and Powerstone 2. Smash Club is about fun and not competition. Other games that we play will include *Pokken Tournament*, *Mario Maker*, *Mario Kart 8*, *Injustice*, *Fatal Fury*, *Soul Calibur*, 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 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.



D&D Sundays

On the first and third Sundays of the month, members of the D&D club will meet in the library from 1-5pm to play custom campaigns and enjoy the company of fellow enthusiasts. Refreshments are served throughout. All supplies provided. Contact club moderator, Ian Parsells at headlibrarian@biblio.org if you are interested in joining the group.

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? Maybe you need help studying for finals? 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.

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
SUPPORT STAFF: Stephen Bisaccia, Bonnie Chevarella
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: John Walsh, President; Shirley Erickson,
Vice President; Maureen Coffey, Angelo Dirienzo, Laura Donahue,
Rick Dunne, Michael Flora, Karen Kemmesies, Richard Knoll,
John Rak, Bruce Sill.

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.

Mommy and Me: Art Partners are for all ages. Working together you will explore different mediums such as crayons, markers, colored pencils, watercolor pencils, paint and finger paint. Both you and your child can open up a new expressive world to explore as you share time together creating your own art. All supplies will be provided.

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.



Maple Sugaring Lecture with David Leff

Join us on Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30pm (rescheduled from April 25) for a slide-illustrated talk about maple sugaring. Explore the mysteries and mystique of maple sugaring and meet the dedicated, sometimes quirky folks who make it. Find out how this unique and ancient northeastern North American product was discovered and the high tech techniques it takes to produce today. Are sugar makers the canary in the coal mine for climate change? Why do some people think maple syrup is the next miracle food? Learn how you can make and enjoy your own syrup.

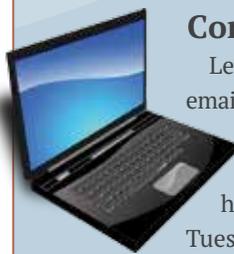
As a former sugar maker and board member of the Connecticut Maple Syrup Producers Association, David Leff will give guests an insider's view of the craft. Books will be available for sale and signing.

NEW DATE



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.



Calendar of Events

May 2017

May 1, 8, 15, 22	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
May 1, 8, 15, 22	Mommy & Me: Art Partners for children	11:00 am
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Science for Toddlers	11:00 am
May 4, 11, 18, 25	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Smash Club! for Teens/Tweens	2:00–5:00 pm
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
May 7, 21	D&D Sundays for teens and adults	1:00–5:00 pm
May 18, 25	Tabletop Gamers and D&D Skirmishes	6:00 pm
May 1, 8, 22	Computer classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
May 3, 10, 24, 31	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
May 6, 13, 20, 27	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
May 4	Dinner and a Movie for adults: La La Land	5:30 pm
May 15	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
May 17	Tech Talks	10:30 am
May 22	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm
May 23	Maple Sugaring Lecture with David Leff	6:30 pm
May 29	LIBRARY CLOSED (Memorial Day)	



MAY							2017						
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June 2017

June 1, 22	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
June 19, 26	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
June 19, 26	Mommy & Me: Art Partners for children	11:00 am
June 20, 27	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
June 20, 27	Science for Toddlers	11:00 am
June 6, 13, 20, 27	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
June 7, 14, 21, 28	Smash Club! for Teens	2:00–5:00 pm
June 4, 18	D&D Sundays for teens and adults	1:00–5:00 pm
June 15, 29	Tabletop Gamers and D&D Skirmishes	6:00 pm
June 3, 10, 17, 24	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
June 5, 12, 19, 26	Computer classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
June 6, 13, 27	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
June 7, 14, 21, 28	Computer classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
June 1	Dinner and a Movie for Adults	5:30 pm
June 19	Teen Summer Reading Begins!	
June 19	Teen Summer Readathon Start Date	
June 19	Teen Summer Photo Scavenger Hunt Start Date	
June 19	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
June 21	Tech Talks	10:30 am
June 21	120 Year History of the Derby Neck Library	6:30 pm
June 26	Children's Summer Reading Begins	
June 26	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm



JUN							2017						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



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