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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

Release Your Inner Artist with Janet Schwartz

Join us on November 22 at 6:00 pm for Release Your Inner Artist with Janet Schwartz. This art workshop is for aspiring artists who want to learn a technique that will help "jump-start" their creativity. As a lifelong educator and practicing artist with a degree in Art Education, Janet is passionate about this workshop and loves helping others overcome

Artist is a hands-on

workshop designed to help adults overcome the stumbling block of perception and focus on seeing what is really there. Participants learn to simplify what is seen to capture the essence of the subject. Working with pastels, Janet will guide participants to see their subject in darks, lights and mid-tones rather than focusing on the individual's perception of what objects should look like and overcomplicating their work. Through a series of images that are more and more in-focus, each participant will create what initially looks like an abstraction but gradually evolves into something more familiar. This is a free program but registration is required. The sign-up sheet is at the front desk.



Over a century of service to the Valley Community



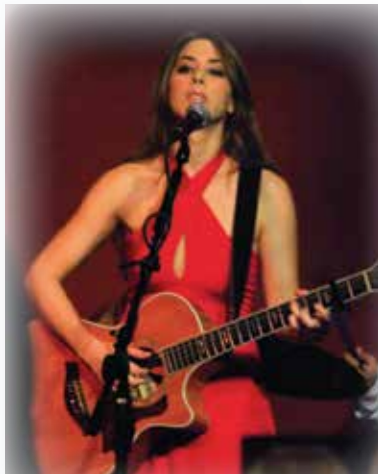
Civil War in the West with Professor Lutris

Join us on Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30pm for Civil War in the West with Professor Lutris. This presentation will discuss the ill-fated western expedition of 1862. Headed up by Confederate General Henry Hopkins Sibley, the CSA attempted to bring a force to Colorado in 1862, hoping to take over the extensive and newly-discovered mineral deposits there, as well as seeking a staging area to take California. The effort failed, but the danger to the new territories and states of the west was real, and only narrowly averted by one of the greatest marches of the Civil- or any other- War by a hodge-podge group of miners and cowboys, as well as by the efforts of the venerable Indian scout Kit Carson to defend the area against Confederate threats. The valiant defense of the American West is one of the lesser-known aspects of the Civil War, but one that deserves more attention from historians of the war.

Fall in Love Music Performance with Sheri Miller

On Saturday, November 12 at 2pm, the Derby Neck Library is excited to once again host critically-acclaimed singer-songwriter Sheri Miller for a performance titled "Fall in Love." Featuring original works as well as covers of popular songs, Sheri will play an eclectic solo set singing and accompanying herself on guitar. This is a free performance for all ages. No registration is required so bring your family and friends!

Sheri Miller is a musician from New York City whose influences include the Beatles, Fiona Apple, Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, the Rolling Stones, Etta James, and Johnny Cash to name a few. She has worked alongside Grammy-winning writers including J.D. Souther of the Eagles. She's released 2 LPs and is working on her third commercial record. Anthony DeCurtis of Rolling Stone calls Sheri's music "Alluring... She makes a powerful first impression, and then, even better, a series of more complex and lasting ones."



FROM THE ARCHIVES ...



By Patricia E. Sweeney

THE NAMING OF THE TOWNS

The Valley towns have each been known by a variety of names over the years, except for **Ansonia**, which was named for Anson Phelps, who settled his import/export business in what was then a section of Derby.

Derby began as a trading post named Paugusset (spelled various ways) after the Indians who resided there. The name Derby, which means a deer park, was fashioned after Derby (pronounced Darby) in England, an industrial town. The Borough of Birmingham was a section of Derby that housed the main manufacturing center after the Ousatonic Dam was completed in 1870.

Seymour, once merely a section of Derby, began with the designation Chusetown, named after a popular Indian chief who resided there. His nickname was Chu. Later the area was known as Humphreyville, since David Humphries had a woolen factory there based on his herd of Merino sheep. When Seymour established an independent town government, it was designed as such to honor Connecticut Gov. Thomas Seymour.

Shelton began as Ripton Parish when settlers numbering 50 families broke away from Stratford Parish. When a town government was formed the name Huntington was chosen to honor Gov. Samuel Huntington. The coming of the Ousatonic Dam created the Borough of Shelton so called for Edward N. Shelton, the president of the Ousatonic Water Company. When a city government was formed the official name became Shelton, incorporating the former town of Huntington with the populous borough.

In the 1960s, the late state representative Carl Ajello of Ansonia strongly encouraged all four municipalities to combine governments and take the name Birmingham. He felt there would be greater attention paid to our local needs with such a combination. One issue he hoped to resolve thusly was the securing of a Connecticut community college to be located in the Valley. However, his efforts did not succeed.