

VOL. 13 ISSUE 1
January - February 2020
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

HISTORY PRESENTATIONS



Pat Sweeney will be giving two history presentations in the upcoming weeks. Join her on Thurs., Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. for *"Suffragettes in Connecticut and the Valley."* This powerpoint focuses on the second wave of CT covering the activated, modern movement from

1909 to 1920. Learn how these vibrant, intelligent women organized and strategized to inform the State Assembly — included is Frances Osborne Kellogg's prominent role as a suffragette.

On Lincoln's Birthday, Wed., Feb. 12 at 6:30, Pat will discuss, with a powerpoint, *"Maj. Wilbur F. Osborne's Service in the Civil War."* Osborne served for more than three years with the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery and had an outstanding and interesting career. He saw combat duty and observed some unique technology as well. Both events are based on Pat's original research.

LITERARY CLUB EVENTS

Daytime Club

Women's Forum, meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 12:30-1:30 in the Community Room. On Mon., Jan. 20, we will discuss two short stories by Margaret Drabble — *"Homework"* and *"Les Liaisons Dangereuses."* On Mon., Feb. 17 we will be focusing on two short stories by Sam Shepard — *"The Real Gabby Hayes"* and *"Winging It."* Copies of the stories are available at the library. We serve free coffee and tea at each meeting.

Evening Book Club

This highly informative and stimulating book club meets on the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., by the fireplace in the Reading Room. We focus on novellas and memoirs by award-winning authors, including many of the classics of fine literature. On Mon., Jan. 27 we will be discussing *"The Turn of the Screw"* by Henry James. On Mon., Feb 24 we focus on *"A River Runs Through It"* by Norman Maclean. The featured books are available at the library prior to each meeting; some large print editions are included when possible. Join us and have an informal, yet incisive learning experience among fellow readers.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
VITA United Way
A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE

VITA Free Tax Preparation Services Begin at the Derby Neck Library

Starting on January 26, 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 \$56,000 in 2019 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

It Happened One Night (Frank Capra, 1934)

Is it just me, or did the years 1934-1944 in Hollywood have a larger share of perfect movies than any other decade? Each and every one of the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers musicals is perfect and more than perfect: they are movies that take one's breath away over and over again, movies so enchanting and so lovely that it seems impossible that they were made by human hands. Yet they were, and to watch Fred and Ginger is to realize at this belated hour that maybe the human race was worth something after all, for even when the earth is scorched to a cinder and all the hopes and kingdoms of men lie crumbled in ruins, it will always be true that motion pictures existed and that *The Gay Divorcee* (1934), *Top Hat* (1935), *Swing Time* (1936), *Shall We Dance* (1937), and *Carefree* (1938) were among them. And then there are the "screwball" comedies. I could hardly list all the perfect films in that most perfect of genres, but I must mention at least Leo McCarey's *The Awful Truth* (1937), Howard Hawks's *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), *His Girl Friday* (1940), and *Ball of Fire* (1941), George Cukor's *Holiday* (1938) and *The Philadelphia Story* (1940), Preston Sturges's *The Lady Eve* (1941) and *The Palm Beach Story* (1942), and Alfred Hitchcock's absurdly underrated *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* (1941). *It Happened One Night* was perhaps the first and certainly the most influential of this genre. But it also belonged to another, more particular genre: the Frank Capra film. Many critics think they know this genre's attributes – hokey sentiment, corny patriotism, and the like. Such people have doubtless never experienced the radical humanism and profound sincerity at the heart of Capra's brilliant artistic vision: a vision that produced a number of perfect movies, including (of course) *It Happened One Night*, *You Can't Take It with You* (1938), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939) and *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946). Capra was a genius, a filmmaker of the first rank who is criminally unappreciated by critics today, most of whom seem to suffer either from what Susan Sontag called "the hypertrophy of the intellect" or from having covered themselves in so many layers of irony that they can no longer experience a genuine human emotion. My favorite film from the early part of his career, *The Miracle Woman* (1931), starred the great Barbara Stanwyck and marked Capra's first collaboration with Robert Riskin, who would go on to write *It Happened One Night* and *You Can't Take It with You* as well as *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936), *Lost Horizon* (1937), and *Meet John Doe* (1941). The alchemy of Riskin's script and the stunning performances of Clark Gable and the gorgeous Claudette Colbert make *It Happened One Night* utterly unique. Everyone knows that it is one of the three films—the others being *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Milos Forman, 1975) and *The Silence of the Lambs* (Jonathan Demme, 1991) – to win all of the "Big Five" Oscars (Best Picture, Director, Screenplay, Actor, and Actress). But what everyone needs to understand is how far the accolades fall short of the achievement.



FROM THE ARCHIVES . . .

by Patricia E. Sweeney

The following is a description of a snowstorm that happened in Derby on Mon., Feb. 13, 1899. It is taken from a news article printed the next day in *The Evening Sentinel*, under the headline "Biggest Storm Since Blizzard of '88" – "Those the employees in the manufactories on Housatonic Avenue who were forced to walk home Monday had a pretty tough time of it coming down along the river front, for it blew a perfect hurricane there all the afternoon and throughout the night.

Two young women, who were endeavoring to reach their homes, coming from one of the shops, were almost overcome when Booth's blacksmith shop was reached and stepped into a hallway in the Shea building, where they remained for some time and until a sleigh could be called in which they were taken to their homes.

At about 6:15 a whirlwind was encountered by a party of people homeward bound, at the corner of Elizabeth and Fifth Streets. Here at least a dozen men hurriedly grouped together and, with their arms about each other, clung together until the wind had somewhat subsided. It was a trying moment for this group."

teen EVENTS

Teen Film Club

The Derby Neck Library's award-winning young adult film club is a magnificent opportunity for all aspiring artists. For more than fifteen years we've been making movies together in a casual, no-pressure, wildly fun environment that nurtures creative collaboration and encourages passionate, personal artistic expression. Hang out with us, and you'll learn and participate in every aspect of film production – so whether you're interested in writing, directing, acting, editing, or all of the above, this program's for you! All young adults, middle-school through college, are welcome. Stop by the library any Tuesday at 4 PM, and make some art you can be proud of.

Derby Neck Video Game Club

Ever played Smash Bros Ultimate with 8 simultaneous players? What about a heated match of Street Fighter V with skilled competitors? Think you're good enough to compete in a tournament with real stakes and prizes? Using the library's Nintendo Switch, PS4, Dreamcast, and more, teens and tweens will play various games on the systems on Tuesdays at 3:00pm. Derby Neck Video Game Club (VGC for short) is all about fun, so come join us. No registration is required and we play year-round when the director, Ian, is in the building.

VGC



Pokémon TCG Club

Whether you've played the game a hundred times, or never have but want to learn, join us on Mondays after school from 4:00 to 6:00pm for the library's *Pokémon Trading Card Game Club!* Attendees are free to bring their cards, but the library will have plenty on hand for all to play and enjoy. This free club is intended for children ages 7 and up.



Gadgets and Gizmos Club

Get ready to make some thingamajigs, thingamabobs, doodads, doohickeys, widgets, and whatsits! Meeting regularly on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm, the *Gadgets & Gizmos Club* will feature STEAM-based activities that change from week to week. Some weeks you'll be building with LEGOs, crafting your own slime, creating pixel art, or some other crazy invention!

Anime Club

Tweens and teens are invited to drop in to watch dubbed episodes of anime shows new and old on the library's big screen! *The Anime Club* meets regularly every other Sunday at 3pm alternating with the D&D group. No registration required. Snacks of the American and Japanese variety will be provided.



D&D Sunday

On scheduled Sundays of every month (see the calendar), members of the D&D club will meet in the library to play epic campaigns and enjoy the company of fellow enthusiasts. There are now two sessions, from 11am -2:30pm and 2:30pm-6pm. Refreshments are served throughout. All supplies provided. Registration is required. Contact club moderator, Ian Parsells at headlibrarian@biblio.org if you are interested in joining a group.



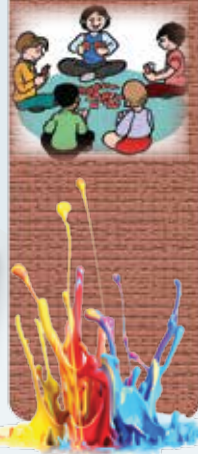
Happy New Year! Now is the time to keep the resolutions you have been thinking about as 2020 approaches. Hopefully your family got some new books and maybe movies for the holidays. However once you have finished all of them, what should you do next? Come to the library for more! We have the latest movies and books for all ages here for free! We also have new and exciting programs for school age children in addition to Miss Kathi's story time and music classes. The two B.A.R.K (Be A Reading Kid) dogs (Brian and Spirit) will also be here once a month to listen to stories and meet the children. Reading is a lifelong habit that enhances your whole life and children can be encouraged not only by being read to and reading to someone else, but also by seeing the teens and adults around them enjoying books. As a librarian, I hear how busy all the children and adults are with outside programs (ie sports, dance, Karate, Music lessons and such), so fitting a visit to the library takes some thought and planning. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this free community resource as often as possible.



See you here in 2020.

- Miss Kathi

recurring children's programs



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 is 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. Classes regularly occur on Mondays at 11am.

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.

Wee Jamboree is for ages birth and up! Drop in and spend time playing musical instruments with your child. This event series is a relaxing time to explore a variety of child-friendly instruments and help introduce music to babies and toddlers. Children will enjoy participating in free play and parades. Classes regularly occur on Tuesdays at 11am.

instruments and help introduce music to babies and toddlers. Children will enjoy participating in free play and parades. Classes regularly occur on Tuesdays 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.



Adult p programs

Computer Orientation Classes

Feeling left behind in a world where computers are everywhere? No matter where you are at skill-wise, whether you need to learn the basics of Microsoft Word, how to search the Internet, or simply how a mouse works, this is the class for you. Bob teaches to the individual and meets you at your needs. Start any day, but you can only attend once a week. Classes last an hour and are held on Mondays at 6pm and Wednesdays at 10:30am. Instruction in Spanish is available. La instrucción en español está disponible.

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. As usual, there will be no *Dinner and a Movie* in January. On February 6, we will be showing *Downton Abbey: The Motion Picture*.



STAFF:

Ian Parsells, Head Librarian
 Kathleen Gordon, Children's Librarian
 Patricia Sweeney, Reference Librarian
 Roberto Carmona, Head of Circulation
 Christina Baclawski, Andrew Bisaccia, Stephen Bisaccia,
 Bonnie Chevarella, Kim MacDonald, David Makusevich,
 Christopher Ochoa, Norman Strumello, Kristina Warrenger
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: John Walsh, President; Shirley Erickson,
 Vice President; Maureen Coffey, Linda Coppola, Tim Dillon,
 Laura Donahue, Rick Dunne, Michael Flora, Karen Kemmesies,
 Richard Knoll, John Rak, Bruce Sill, Fr. Christopher Tiano.

Calendar of Events

January 2020

January 13, 20, 27	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
January 13, 20, 27	Mommy & Me: Art Partners for children	11:00 am
January 14, 21, 28	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
January 14, 21, 28	Wee Jamboree for children	11:00 am
January 16, 23, 30	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
January 6, 13, 20, 27	Pokémon TCG Club for children 7+	4:00–6:00 pm
January 8, 15, 22, 29	Gadgets and Gizmos Club for children 7+	4:00–5:30 pm
January 5, 19	Anime Club for tweens & teens	3:00–4:30 pm
January 7, 14, 21, 28	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
January 14, 21, 28	Video Game Club for tweens & teens	3:00–6:00 pm
January 12, 26	D&D Sundays for teens and adults	11:00 am & 2:30 pm
January 4, 11, 18, 25	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
January 6, 13, 20, 27	Computer Orientation Classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
January 7, 14, 21, 28	Afternoon Tea V for adults	1:00–2:30 pm
January 7, 8, 9	VITA Volunteer Training	5:30 pm
January 8, 15, 22, 29	Computer Orientation Classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
January 1	LIBRARY CLOSED (New Year's Day)	
January 15	Friends of the Derby Neck Library monthly mtg.	6:00 pm
January 20	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
January 22	B.A.R.K. with Spirit the dog	5:30 pm
January 22	Friends, Food, and Books Club for adults	6:00 pm
January 23	History of the Suffragettes in CT	6:30 pm
January 26	VITA Free Tax Assistance (by appt. only)	1:00-4:00 pm
January 27	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm



January 2020						
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February 2020

February 3, 10, 17	Pre-Threes classes for children	10:00 am
February 3, 10, 17	Mommy & Me: Art Partners for children	11:00 am
February 4, 11, 18	Been There Done That classes for children	10:00 am
February 4, 11, 18	Wee Jamboree for children	11:00 am
February 6, 13, 20	Music and Movement classes for children	10:00 & 11:00 am
February 3, 10, 17, 24	Pokémon TCG Club for children 7+	4:00–6:00 pm
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Gadgets and Gizmos Club for children 7+	4:00–5:30 pm
February 2, 16	Anime Club for tweens & teens	3:00–4:30 pm
February 4, 11, 18, 25	Video Game Club for tweens & teens	3:00–6:00 pm
February 4, 11, 18, 25	Teen Film Club	4:00 pm
February 9, 23	D&D Sundays for teens and adults	11:00 am & 2:30 pm
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Needlers Club for adults	1:00–4:00 pm
February 2, 9, 16, 23	VITA Free Tax Assistance (by appt. only)	1:00-4:00 pm
February 3, 10, 17, 24	Computer Orientation Classes for adults	6:00–7:00 pm
February 4, 11, 18, 25	Afternoon Tea V for adults	1:00 pm
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Computer Orientation Classes for adults	10:30–11:30 am
February 6	Dinner and a Movie for adults: Downton Abbey	5:30 pm
February 12	Civil War Career of Major Wilbur Osborne	6:30 pm
February 17	Women's Forum	12:30 pm
February 19	B.A.R.K. with Spirit the dog	5:30 pm
February 19	Friends of the Derby Neck Library monthly mtg.	6:00 pm
February 24	Evening Book Club	6:30 pm
February 26	Friends, Food, and Books Club for adults	6:00 pm



February 2020						
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New programs are added frequently, so check in the Library and our Website for the most up-to-date schedule.