Author Rebecca Freimann has made her debut as an author with her book *Family Tree: Rooted in Survival*. She has spent 8 plus years researching her family’s fates during the Holocaust. Within the pages of this book, she tells their stories; stories that have never before been told. She depicts her three family branches and their experiences.

As a former CT resident, Rebecca currently lives in NY and works as a special education teacher. Returning to Derby to share these stories is incredibly meaningful for Rebecca, since part of her family escaped the Nazis and later made Derby their home.

**Holocaust Remembrance Presentation**

Connecticut’s premier Irish balladeers, the Kerry Boys, will return to the Derby Neck Library on Saturday, March 21 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.

There is no registration required for this event, but seating will fill up quick. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Derby Neck Library.

**Daylight Saving Time**

**Spring Ahead**

Sunday, March 8
ANDREW’S PICKS

The Lobster (2015); The Killing of a Sacred Deer (2017); The Favourite (2018).

Yorgos Lanthimos is quite simply one of my favorite directors working today. I’ve never seen his two earliest films, My Best Friend (2001) and Kinetta (2005), since they’ve never been released in the United States, but all five of his subsequent movies are masterpieces. Dogtooth (2009) in particular blew me away when I first saw it in college, and it introduced me to the two broad strands of amazing films that have been coming out of Eastern Europe for the past two decades. First, there are the starkly minimalist, often almost neo-realist Romanian films from directors like Corneliu Porumboiu (12:08 East of Bucharest, 2006), Cristian Mungiu (4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days, 2007), and Cristi Puiu (The Death of Mr. Lazarescu, 2005).

Then, almost as if in response, there are the boldly fantastic and even surrealist films pouring out of Greece from directors like Lanthimos, Athina Rachel Tsangari (Attenberg, 2010), and Babis Makridis (Pity, 2018) — all of whom have collaborated frequently with one another and, significantly, with the writer Efthymis Filippou, thus lending a certain cohesion to the “movement” in reality and not just in critical imagination. I am sure social historians will plumb cultural and economic conditions in those two countries and Europe more broadly to explain why two such (seemingly) antithetical schools emerged, one after the other, in these two particular countries in the first part of the twenty-first century. But for the cinephile, the so-called “Romanian New Wave” and “Greek Weird Wave” might just as well be gifts from the Olympian gods, and indeed (heretical Marxist that I am) I find the latter “explanation” both more likely and certainly more appealing than any boring historical-materialist account. Moreover, the passionate lover of both schools can discern deep connections between them. The Kafkaesque absurdity of the Romanian bureaucracy reaches at times almost surreal heights in Puiu’s and especially Porumboiu’s films; in fact, even in his most documentary mode Porumboiu is half a surrealist—see, for instance, his hilarious Infinite Football (2018). As for the Greeks, their surrealism is by no means baroque; it even derives much of its power and strangeness from being situated so carefully in unremarkable, realistic settings which are often as particular and carefully-drawn as those constructed by the Romanian “realists.” Lanthimos’s Alps (2011), for example, has a premise that seems clearly fantastic and details that are deeply surreal, but is played against a background that is both a late-capitalist bourgeois “anywhere” and yet somehow specifically Greek; ditto for Makridis’s Pity. After making Alps, Lanthimos switched to the English language without missing a beat, and produced three more remarkable movies: The Lobster, The Killing of a Sacred Deer, and The Favourite. And now, after all this set-up, how does one begin to describe a Lanthimos film? The bold, haunting cinematography of Antonioni or Kubrick or Lynch, the unrelenting absurdity and subversive, satiric edge of Buñuel or Chytilová, the quirky black humor and stylized performances of Herzog or Wes Anderson, the inexorable precision and inscrutable depths of the Coen brothers or Hitchcock . . . the list could go on and on. Any scion of so many remarkable forebears must be, paradoxically, a true original.

Though I would urge the reader to seek out Elif Batuman’s article on “Japan’s Rent-a-Family Industry” in the April 30, 2018 issue of The New Yorker; not to mention Werner Herzog’s Family Romance, LLC, which premiered at Cannes last year.

Sinking of the Titanic with Jason Scappaticci

The Titanic sank over 100 years ago but it still continues to fascinate people. What is it about this disaster that manages to hold the public’s interest? Why did it not carry enough lifeboats? Was it truly the most luxurious ship afloat? On Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30pm, come learn the story of Titanic and answers to many questions that keep us talking about it to this day.
**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.

**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.

**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.

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### Calendar of Events

#### March 2020

- **March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**
  - Pre-Threes classes for children  10:00 am
  - Mommy & Me: Art Partners for children  11:00 am
  - Been There Done That classes for children  10:00 am
  - Wee Jamboree for children  10:45 am
  - Music and Movement classes for children  10:00 & 11:00 am
  - My 1st Baby for new parents/grandparents  3:00 pm
- **March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**
  - Pokémon TCG Club for children 7+  4:00–6:00 pm
  - Gadgets and Gizmos Club for children 7+  4:00–5:30 pm
  - Anime Club for tweens & teens  3:00–4:30 pm
  - Teen Film Club  4:00 pm
- **March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**
  - Video Game Club for tweens & teens  3:00–6:00 pm
  - D&D Sundays for teens and adults  11:00 am & 2:30 pm
- **March 5, 12, 19, 26**
  - Dinner and a Movie for adults: *Knives Out*  5:30 pm
  - Women’s Forum  12:30 pm
- **March 1, 15, 29**
  - We Are Quiet sensory-friendly activities  11:00 am
- **March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**
  - B.A.R.K. with Spirit the dog  5:00 pm
  - Friends of the Derby Neck Library monthly mtg.  6:00 pm
- **March 21**
  - Kerry Boys Performance  2:00 pm
- **March 25**
  - Friends, Food, and Books Club for adults  6:00 pm
- **March 30**
  - Evening Book Club  6:30 pm

#### April 2020

- **April 2, 9, 30**
  - Music and Movement classes for children  10:00 & 11:00 am
  - Pre-Threes classes for children  10:00 am
  - Mommy & Me: Art Partners for children  11:00 am
  - My 1st Baby for new parents/grandparents  3:00 pm
  - Been There Done That classes for children  10:00 am
  - Wee Jamboree for children  10:45 am
  - Pokémon TCG Club for children 7+  4:00–6:00 pm
  - Gadgets and Gizmos Club for children 7+  4:00–5:30 pm
  - Video Game Club for tweens & teens  3:00–6:00 pm
  - Teen Film Club  4:00 pm
- **April 5, 19**
  - D&D Sundays for teens and adults  11:00 am & 2:30 pm
  - Computer Orientation Classes for adults  10:30–11:30 am
  - Needlers Club for adults  1:00–4:00 pm
- **April 6, 13, 20, 27**
  - Computer Orientation Classes for adults  6:00–7:00 pm
  - Afternoon Tea V for adults  1:00 pm
- **March 7, 14, 28**
  - Dinner and a Movie for adults  5:30 pm
  - VITA Free Tax Assistance (by appt. only)  1:00–4:00 pm
  - Library Closed (Easter Weekend)
  - Library Closed (Easter Day)
  - B.A.R.K. with Spirit the dog  5:00 pm
  - Friends of the Derby Neck Library monthly mtg.  6:00 pm
  - Sinking of the Titanic Presentation  6:30 pm
  - Women’s Forum  12:30 pm
  - We Are Quiet sensory-friendly activities  11:00 am
  - Holocaust Remembrance Presentation  6:30 pm
  - Friends, Food, and Books Club for adults  6:00 pm
  - Anime Club for tweens & teens  3:00–4:30 pm
  - Evening Book Club  6:30 pm
  - Kids’ Choice Pizza Primary  6:00 pm

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