



BOOKMARKS

FRIENDS OF THE SCARSDALE LIBRARY

Winter 2013

A Friend in Need . . .

As president of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, and on behalf of all our board members, I would like to use this space at this time not to draw your attention to more ways we all can be good Friends to our Library, but rather to express deep appreciation for how, this fall in particular, our Library has been such a good friend to us.

Superstorm Sandy packed a wallop at the end of October, leaving most Scarsdale residents without power for days on end, just as those days were getting shorter and the nights colder. With little to cheer about and much to bemoan, news that the Library had power and was staying open beyond normal business hours spread through town like the warming effects of a cup of hot coffee – which, by the way, was one of the many kindnesses provided by the library staff that week! Plentiful charging stations for our mobile devices, kids' movies in the Scott Room, the chance to catch up on local and other news, fines being forgiven and that free coffee all gave us reason to smile during an otherwise pretty grim week.

Eventually, power was restored to our homes and life returned to normal, but library director Beth Bermel, assistant director Leni Glauber and the staff remained committed to helping those less fortunate. After learning that a number of Long Island communities were without library services post-storm, Beth and Leni organized a drive to collect our gently used children's books, then in less than a week packed more than 100 boxes for a group creating "pop-up" libraries in affected areas.

The start of a new year is a natural time to look ahead to all the good reasons to come to the library – engaging speakers, excellent films, thoughtful book group discussions, and of course the 3rd Annual Spelling Bee! At the same time, let's not leave 2012 without thanking our library director and staff for all they did this past year, and, in particular, for demonstrating post-Sandy that in our Library, we have a friend indeed!

Kathy Gray
President,
Friends of the Scarsdale Library

From the Board of Trustees

Wasn't it just a few years ago that so-called experts predicted that the rise of e-books would make libraries obsolete? Nothing could be further from the truth! Public libraries across the country are playing an increasingly vital role in community life and nowhere was that more evident than in Scarsdale in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Our library was truly the center of our community, serving as a place not only to warm up, recharge, and de-stress, but also to catch up with neighbors and get the latest information from Village officials and elected representatives. Then, just days after normalcy returned, it became the heart of the community as well, as we collectively donated 134 boxes of books for those in areas more harshly affected by the storm.

I join with the rest of the community in expressing my sincere appreciation to Library Director Beth Bermel, Assistant Director Leni Glauber, and an amazing group of staff members who stepped up to keep the library open for extended hours during a very trying period.

But like all good organizations, our goal now is to analyze our emergency response and see how we might do better. Of course, it was by sheer luck that our building had electricity and phones when so many did not. How might we prepare for the possibility that the Library could lose power during a future storm? It's vexing questions like this that the Library Board and administration are just beginning to consider.

Another key issue is communication - and it's here that we need your help. During the storm, social media constituted the key way we communicated important new information (such as the scheduling of Village meetings in the Scott Room) as well as ever-changing conditions. But we couldn't reach you unless you had arranged to hear from us. So as the New Year gets underway, we ask that you make a resolution to stay in touch by:

*Making sure we have your email address (you'll know we do if you receive our eblasts; if not, you can easily join our mailing list on the home page of our website, or ask at the front desk the next time you visit).

*Following us on Twitter.

*Liking us on Facebook.

On behalf of the entire Library Board, I wish you the best in 2013.

Barbara Josselson
President, Board of Trustees,
Scarsdale Library



From the Library Director

I am often asked why I became a librarian, how I became a library director and what my job entails. Most people are surprised to hear that something about books is not my automatic response. Please don't misunderstand me; I love books, reading, literacy and information. But the real answer, and I usually say it with a laugh, is: "I live to serve."

I became a librarian, specifically a librarian in a public library, because I believe in the ideal of providing service to everyone, regardless of their background, financial status, beliefs, education level; the list goes on. I delight in the thrill of hunting down that piece of information that might help someone, even in a small way. I love choosing new books I think my community will want. I enjoy interacting with people, with all their fascinating histories, daily challenges and interesting stories.

I became a library director because I wanted to serve on a larger scale, but that also means I get fewer of those face-to-face interactions and great reference questions. That is, until something like a wide scale power outage occurs. As I do every day, I asked myself, "What can the library do to serve? What can I do?" In the process of responding to the needs of the community, some of which were very basic, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in your histories, challenges and stories, and I thank you for that.

As for what my job entails? That is the best part. Every day provides a different opportunity to serve.

Elizabeth Bermel
Library Director

Playaways

For guaranteed entertainment that is simple to use and impervious to the elements and power outages, check out Playaways at the Library. These all-in-one audiobooks come with batteries included; you provide the headset and, if you don't have one, we sell ear buds for a dollar apiece. Our collection of over 225 Playaways includes classics, fiction, mysteries, biographies, history, self-help, dog training and language learning titles. We also have the latest bestsellers in Playaway form, including J. K. Rowling's *Casual Vacancy*, Stephen Colbert's *America Again*, Hilary Mantel's *Bring Up the Bodies*, William Landay's *Defending Jacob*, Rachel Maddow's *Drift*, *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins and the *50 Shades of Grey* trilogy by E. L. James. Each Playaway has a wearable lanyard so you can listen on the treadmill, while cooking or just relaxing! Easy to follow instructions are included in each case. Check them out!

Bobbi Kokot
Reference Librarian

Spelling Bee Sets Library Abuzz

A swarm of devoted library volunteers has been working diligently behind the scenes to bring us the third edition of the Scarsdale Library Adult and Teen Spelling Bee. A highlight of the Library's annual fundraising events, the Bee will take place on Friday, February 1, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Scarsdale High School Auditorium (snow date Friday, March 1). Proceeds from the 2013 Spelling Bee will be used to create a "business center" at the Library providing a range of office equipment that will serve the needs of many constituencies, including home-office professionals, small-business owners, members of volunteer organizations, senior citizens and students. The equipment may include a banner maker, cutting-edge copier, laminating machine, photo printer, and more depending on the amount of funds raised.

This year, the Spelling Bee teams will vie to win the grand prize of Kindle Fire HD's. Ed Coleman, the voice of the New York Mets, will once again play emcee. Audience members will be regaled not only by the mental gymnastics displayed onstage, but also by games and trivia served up during intermission.

The fun starts when the doors open at 7 pm for the silent auction and raffles which will be conducted throughout the evening. Some of the notable auction items this year include an eight-week SAT prep class offered by TestTakers, valued at \$1995, an iPad 4 with cellular capability, and a one-year family membership to LIFE – The Place to Be. Raffle prizes include ten passes to Grand Prix New York go-kart racing and gaming center, SoulCycle classes, and more.

Businesses and individuals who are interested in sponsoring the Bee by making a donation of \$250 or more should contact Sara Werder at 472-6264 or Renu Lalwani at 472-4310. In addition, anyone can become a "Friend of the Bee" by making a donation of any amount. A printable donation form is available at the Friends of the Library website.

Admission to the Spelling Bee is \$5, and refreshments will be available for purchase.

E-Books

We anticipate this holiday season will see more patrons interested in downloading library books to their e-readers as new and improved devices enter the marketplace. We are eager to help this growing group of library patrons learn how to best use their e-readers to borrow and then download e-books.

Our e-book collection has grown significantly as we continue to expand our Scarsdale Advantage collection, available only to Scarsdale Library cardholders, and as the Westchester Library System downloadable book collection, available to all cardholders, also grows. Multiple copies of the most popular titles make wait times shorter than ever.

Printed instructions for use with different brands of e-readers are available in the library at the reference desk and are also posted on our website (www.scarsdalelibrary.org). Or call us at 914-722-1300, ext. 2, with questions or to make an appointment for individualized assistance to walk you through using your own e-reader.

The Boxwood Hedge

Two hundred years ago
A schooner with a cargo
Of Polish swans
And English boxwood bushes
Was bound for New York Harbor
When it was shipwrecked in a storm
Just off Long Island

Because the cabin-boy
Opened their cages
The forty swans took flight
Into the marshes
The sapling boxwood bushes
Were swept ashore
And up into the beach-grass
On the dunes
Where children found them

Now three heads taller
Than the tallest man
Massive
And rich in shadows
The boxwood bushes
Are growing as a hedge around
A country doctor's garden

Their little waxen leaves
Are of a green so deep
It's almost black
And when the sun is on them

They haunt the doctor's house
With a dim double perfume
Like that of fresh-ground coffee
And the musk
Of a wild mushroom.

-Anne Porter

Anne Porter (1911–2011) was the author of *Living Things: Collected Poems* (2006) and *An Altogether Different Language* (1994), which was nominated for a National Book Award. This poem is presented with thanks to **Emerald Tree Care Company**, which has graciously offered to tend, complimentary, the Library's boxwood hedges.



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Children's Services

The Children's room is pleased to present a winter wonderland of fun programs!

Book Clubs: Cozy up with a good book and come to the library for a lively discussion. We offer monthly book clubs for grades 2-6 on the following dates:

Grade 2---1/9, 2/6 and 3/6 at 4 pm
Grade 3--- 1/16, 2/13 and 3/13 at 4 pm
Grade 4---1/15, 2/12 and 3/12 at 7 pm
Grades 5, 6---1/14, 2/11 and 3/11 at 7 pm

Advanced Chess, with John Gallagher, will be offered for a 7-week period from January 8-February 19. Any child who is interested in taking the advanced chess class should have taken the beginner course at least 2-3 times and/or should be able to play a complete game of chess without making any illegal moves.

Snow Ball: On January 12 at 2 pm, we will hold our first "Snow Ball" for ages 3-1/2 and up. There will be crafts, stories and "snowmuch" fun.

Wii Games: On Saturday, January 19 from 2 pm-4 pm we will kick-off our new collection of Wii games. Children can come in and play games in the Scott Room. Games will also be available for checkout.

Toddler Tuesdays continue through the winter: Kid-die Kabaret with Nancie Schnur 1/29, 2/26 and 3/26 at 10:30 am, Musical Munchkins 1/8, 2/5 and 3/5 at 9:30 am and 10:30 am, Robert the Guitar Guy 1/15, 2/19 and 3/19 at 10 am and Planes, Trains and Automobile, a free play event, on 1/22, 2/12 and 3/12.

Legomania: The popular Legomania, an unstructured free-play program, will be held on Friday, January 25 from 2 pm-4 pm and Saturday, March 23 from 2 pm-4 pm.

Yoga-a-Go-Go, a program designed for special needs kids, is offered Sundays at 1:30 pm on 1/20, 2/10, and 3/3. Traditional yoga poses and practices have been modified into a playful, non-judgmental format for fun and relaxation. No knowledge of yoga is necessary. (Registration is NOT required.)

Mommy and Me Yoga is for children who are walking, up to age 5. The class meets Mondays at 10:30 am on 1/14, 2/11, and 3/11. (Registration is required.)

Have you seen the new Playaway View, the All-In-One Video Player? This portable video device is the latest addition to our ever-expanding collection. It's great for car trips with multiple children as each child may have their own choice of view, and with earbuds in place it sets the scene for a quiet, peaceful trip for moms and dads. The View is preloaded with either storybooks or non-fiction titles. From classics such as the William Steig collection, to National Geographics Polar Region, the view has a lot to offer. The Playaway, the audio book in a pre-loaded format, will be available soon for your listening pleasure.

BOOKMARKS
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WHAT SCARSDALE IS READING

Fiction

- *Gone Girl* - Gillian Flynn
- *Sweet Tooth* - Ian McEwan
- *Round House* - Louise Erdrich
- *The Forgotten* - David Baldacci
- *Flight Behavior* - Barbara Kingsolver

Non-Fiction

- *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity* - Andrew Solomon
- *Patriarch: the Remarkable life and Turbulent Times of Joseph P. Kennedy* - David Nasaw
- *The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail - But Some Don't* - Nate Silver
- *Thomas Jefferson: the Art of Power* - John Meacham

The Friends of the Scarsdale Library is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that supports the Scarsdale Library through volunteer service and cultural and educational activities. The Friends gives financial assistance to fund the continuing improvement of library facilities, collections and programs, and serves as a conduit through which gifts and memorials go directly to the library.

Find out more about the Friends of the Scarsdale Library at www.scarsdalelibrary.org/friends.

WHAT SCARSDALE IS WATCHING

- Homeland: the complete first season
- Hope Springs
- Magic Mike
- Men in Black 3
- Moonrise Kingdom

WHAT SCARSDALE IS DOWNLOADING

- *Fifty Shades of Grey* - E. L. James
- *Gone Girl* - Gillian Flynn
- *The Sense of an Ending* - Julian Barnes
- *The Darkest Seduction* - Gena Showalter
- *The Power of Habit* - Charles Duhigg

Bookmarks

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Christine Bensché, Vice President
Betsy Bohrer, Treasurer
Ann Lewis, Secretary
Ottillie Jarmel, Bookmarks Editor

Winter Library Hours

Mon-Wed: 9-9 Thurs: 9-6 Fri: 9-5
Sat: 9-5 Sun: 1-5

Library Express: Always Open
Library Information: 914-722-1300
Automated Renewal: 914-674-4169
www.scarsdalelibrary.org

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

One priority of the library and the Friends is to obtain the email addresses of everyone in our community. We are beginning to send reminder notices of speaker events, children's programs, jazz performances, Book Sale information, and other library happenings by email. We also send email notices of holds and overdues, and advance notices of due dates. To be included on our email mailing list, please leave your email address with the Circulation Desk or email scadirector@wlsmail.org.

All email addresses supplied to the library and/or to the Friends are for the sole use of the library and/or the Friends. All contact information, including email addresses, is kept strictly confidential. We do not share this information with, or sell it to, any person or entity.