



# BOOKS AND BEYOND...

## NEWS OF THE LEDYARD LIBRARIES

<http://www.lioninc.org/ledyard>

Summer 2010

Volume 23 No. 3

The Ledyard Libraries support and encourage the freedom to read, learn and discover in a welcoming environment. We provide friendly, knowledgeable service and free access to a diversity of ideas, resources and experiences. We strive to enhance the quality of life in our community, encourage lifelong learning and the love of reading.

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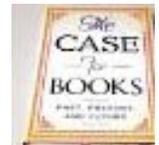
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### The Case for Libraries

The recent vote on the possible closing of the Gales Ferry Library plunged Ledyard residents back into the long debate on the future and value of the town's public library system. As a historian, parent, and library assistant, I knew that these arguments were wrong – and struggled, unsuccessfully, to refute them. Then, a week ago, I read a book by Robert Darnton called *The Case for Books* that supplied compelling evidence that libraries are not obsolete in the computer age, and that far from being a superfluous luxury, libraries are an essential component of all 21<sup>st</sup> century democracies.

In *The Case for Books*, Robert Darnton, the pre-eminent authority on the history of the book and holder of an endowed chair at Harvard University, traces the evolution of the printed word. First came clay tablets with chiseled emblems (think of the rosetta stone); then papyrus and parchment scrolls that rolled down, and in about the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, books as we know them today – with pages that turn (think of the illuminated manuscripts created by medieval monks). In the 1650's, Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press with movable type revolutionized book production and expanded access to the written word exponentially.



Libraries developed to accommodate technological changes in the written word. The great library at Alexandria preserved scrolls and tablets for classical scholars; medieval libraries in cloisters provided access to illuminated manuscripts to monastic communities. After the development of the printing press, private libraries multiplied throughout the western world – for gentlemen's clubs and homes and myriad private organizations. In 1731 Benjamin Franklin founded the Library Company of Philadelphia – a private subscription library that allowed all who paid dues to borrow books. In the decades that followed, local subscription libraries spread throughout the American colonies.

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## Children's Summer Reading



@ the library this summer! After you come home from the beach, come to the library for our great summer reading program for ages 4 and up.

**Registration begins Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** at Bill or Gales Ferry Library. Please register at the library where each individual program is being offered. All programs are free and open to the public.

**Read to Me!** June 21 – August 7  
Children aged 4 through entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Participants will receive a coloring sheet with 10 pictures. For each book read independently (or read to them) color in one picture and write the title on the back of the sheet. When 10 pictures are colored and every title recorded, return the sheet to the library where the child is registered for a prize. Continue reading and after completing 5 sheets win a paperback book. The last day to return the sheets is August 7th.



**Make a Splash, Read!** June 21 – August 7  
Students entering grades 2 – 6



Start reading on June 17, read for one hour (or more) and come to the library to register anytime after June 21. Participants will receive a game sheet to record the hours read and play the game. The goal of the game is to complete 6 pair of matching fish. Prizes are awarded along the way. The elementary schools have challenged students to read as much as possible. The student reading the most minutes will have the honor of getting Mrs. Brewer wet! Students can continue to record their minutes with us until August 21<sup>st</sup>, even though the formal program is over on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Children's Programs

 **Beachy Kids Storytimes**  
Tuesdays July 6 – Aug. 3      9:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
Gales Ferry Library      Ages 3 – 5

Join us for summer stories, songs and special activities.



## Family Game Nights

Mondays      6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
July 12, July 26      Bill Library  
July 19, Aug. 2      Gales Ferry

How about a game of Scrabble, Yahtzee or Clue? Perhaps you would like to try Set, Pictureka or Banagrams. If you prefer something more active at Bill Library try bowling, tennis or a game of pool on our Wii play plus; jogging, strength training or yoga on Wii Fit. Bring the family for a night of games @ your library.

 **Lunch and a Movie!**  
Wednesdays June 23 – Aug. 4 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  
Bill Library      All ages

Bring your lunch and we will provide a special snack and lemonade for you! All movies are rated **G** or **PG** and will be projected onto our large screen!

June 23      **Nemo (PG)**  
June 30      **Water Horse (PG)**  
July 7      **Surf's Up (PG)**  
July 14      **Shark's Tale (PG)**  
July 21      **Flipper (G)**  
July 28      **Flushed Away (PG)**  
Aug. 4      **Free Willy (PG)**



 **Sidewalk Art Contest**  
Thursday June 24      10:00 a.m.  
(Rain date Jun.25)  
Bill Library      Ages 6 – 10

Come and show us your skill and decorate one of the sections of sidewalk outside the Bill Library. Space is limited. There will be prizes for all. Bring your own sidewalk chalk if you have it.

**Drop-in Water Craft Day**  
Thursday July 1      GF Library  
10:00 – 12:00, and  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.      Grades 1 – 5

Join us to make some fun splashy water crafts.

**Splashy Water Fun Day!**  
Thursday July 8      10:00 a.m.  
Bill Library      All Ages



Wear something you can get wet, because we are going to have lots of fun water games!

**Tropical Adventure with Tom Stankus**  
Tuesday July 13      1:00 p.m.  
Ledyard Center School      All Ages

T-Bone will whisk away his audience on a fun-filled tropical adventure through the use of songs, stories, instruments, games and visual aids. A treat for the whole family!



### Pirate Tales with Playtivity

Thursday July 22 2:00 p.m.  
Ledyard Center School All Ages



Yo ho ho ho. Ahoy there mateys! Set your sails and go on an adventure to find hidden treasure in far away lands. Join Capn' Craig and the fair maiden, Kilani, (Virginia) as they take you on a fun filled adventure on the high seas to discover the hidden treasures of musical merriment. This participatory story is filled with twists and turns as children are introduced to world percussion instruments throughout the story. Children become actors, sing songs and play fun rhythms aboard the *HMS Playtivity*.

### Suitcase of Surprises with Mystic Aquarium

Thursday July 29 10:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Gallup Hill School Ages 4-6

Mystic Aquarium will be here with a suitcase full of sea creatures including clownfish, eels, anemones, flounder and sharks. Discover the numerous adaptations that equip these animals for life in the ocean.



**Please register**

### Teen Summer Reading Program

**Make waves @ your library**

**June 21 – August 7**



The program is open to students entering grades 7-12 in fall 2010. Read a book, volunteer to help the younger children with their summer reading program, be a guest reader at story time, or help Mrs. Brewer with the crafts for the younger kids and be eligible for prizes. There will be 4 weekly raffle winners, and entries may be earned by reading a book or volunteering. Prizes will also be awarded for the most books read & the most volunteer hours worked. All volunteers will be given a certificate documenting the number of hours accumulated.

### Summer Reading Volunteers needed!

#### Volunteer orientation

Thursday, June 17 5:30- 6:30 pm Bill Library  
Friday, June 18 3:00- 4:00 pm GF Library

The library is looking for teens to help the younger children this summer with the reading program activities. Plan to attend one of the orientation sessions and sign up for times when you can help. Please bring your family calendar to sign up for your first few volunteer shifts.

### Wii Play @ Bill Library

**Wednesdays, June 30 – August 7 2:30-4:30 p.m**

Teens get together with your friends for an afternoon of music and socializing. Play Guitar Hero 5 complete with drums or try your hand at bowling or tennis with Wii play. No need to register just show up with some friends and have fun.



Join us on Facebook...  
"Ledyard Libraries Teen Program"

### Adult Programs

**Thursday June 24 7:00 p.m. Bill Library**  
**Composting with Worms**



Jean Scialabba, our square foot gardener, returns with an informative program on worm composting. Jean has been composting with worms and giving classes to people of all ages for over thirty years. She will be introducing her "red wigglers" and sharing their important job. She will also talk about the technique of indoor composting and the reuse of kitchen waste so that it is turned into "gardener's gold". Jean always brings a few hundred of her worm friends for that hands-on experience, if desired. She will also bring ideas on how she has gotten "creative" with container gardening. This program is for all ages.

### Book Discussions

Join our monthly book discussions on Wednesday evenings at Bill Library at 7:00 p.m. We always welcome new participants and provide evening refreshments courtesy of the Friends of Ledyard Libraries. We hope you will consider joining us for a book discussion on the books you've read!



**June 16, 2010:** *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann. For those who have copies of our Book Discussion Bookmark, this is a change from that listing. We'll be reading the August title in June in order to fit this 2009 National Book Award title into this year's schedule.

McCann's sweeping novel hinges on Philippe Petit's illicit 1974 high-wire walk between the twin towers. It is the aftermath, in which Petit appears in the courtroom of Judge Solomon Soderberg that sets events into motion. (Publisher's Weekly, June 2009.)

**July 21, 2010:** *Goldengrove* by Francine Prose. In Prose's deeply touching and absorbing 15th novel, narrator Nico, 13, tells of the summer after her adored older sister, Margaret casually dove from a rowboat in a nearby lake and drowned. In emotive detail, Nico relates the subsequent events of that summer. Nico was a willing confidant and decoy in Margaret's clandestine romance with a high school classmate, Aaron, and Nico now finds that she and Aaron are drawn to each other in their mutual bereavement. Unhinged by grief, Nico's parents are distracted and careless in their oversight of Nico, and Nico is deep in perilous waters before she realizes that she is out of her depth. Prose eschews her familiar satiric mode. She fluidly maintains Nico's tender insights into the human condition as Nico comes to discover her own way of growing up and moving on. (*Publisher's Weekly* September 2008.)

**August 18, 2010:** *A Pearl In the Storm* by Tori Murden McClure. This One Book One Region Title will feature guest Book Discussion Leader Susan Topping. Two storm-wracked trips across the Atlantic Ocean become voyages of self-discovery for McClure, as she explains in this epic tale of adversity and triumph. McClure details her attempts to become the first woman to row across the Atlantic, interspersed with reflections on challenges she has faced in the past. She recounts her struggles to protect her developmentally disabled brother, Lamar, from abuse by neighborhood children; her time at Harvard's divinity school; and her work with the homeless, all the while describing her battles through towering waves and fierce storms. Her tiny vessel, the American Pearl, is battered by winds throughout the journey, forcing McClure to come to terms with her own vulnerability. Throughout it all, she relies on a loyal cadre of friends who help her attain her goals. Yet, for McClure, perhaps the greatest accomplishment is learning to accept her own weaknesses as she submits to the whims of the ocean swells and allows herself to become receptive to the myriad possibilities of life. (*Booklist*.)

### One Book One Region 2010

One Book One Region is a project that encourages residents of eastern Connecticut to read the same book during the spring and summer months and then come together to discuss what they've read. Libraries and schools offer book discussion opportunities for all ages and programs to complement the themes in the chosen book. The author is invited to visit the region in the fall to meet

the readers, sign their books, and answer their questions. The goals as always are to bring people together to discuss ideas, to broaden the appreciation of reading, and to break down barriers among people. In this year's book, Tori Murden McClure describes her solo row across the Atlantic Ocean which was an incredible feat, requiring planning, endurance and sheer courage. The three movies selected for adult summer viewing reflect other personal attempts to face difficult physical challenges and the changes that occur in individuals when those challenges are met head-on. For additional suggested books and movies to consider while reading the One Book One Region title this summer pick up a bookmark at the library.

#### Movies:

**Tuesday July 13**  
**Bill Library**

**Razor's Edge**  
**6:30-9 pm**

Based upon the 1942 W. Somerset Maugham novel, it follows the evolution of a spoiled upper class boy from Illinois (Larry, Bill Murray), who volunteers to be an ambulance driver in WW I for a little "fun and adventure" and instead gets a dose of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). His world was forever changed by the events he experienced. He literally could not go home again after the war. He tried, and found the lives of those around him to be shallow and meaningless, and their pursuits and interests just trivial. There had to be a reason why he was here, and this sets the stage for the real point of the movie, which is an exploration of the meaning of life. (Rated: PG13 , 128 min.)

**Wednesday August 4**  
**Bill Library**

**Wind**  
**6:30-9 pm**



In reality, in 1983 Australia II skippered by John Bertrand defeated the American boat Liberty skippered by Dennis Conner, at the end of the 7th match race in the America's Cup. This broke 132 years of victory for America in the America's Cup match race, started in 1851 when the yacht America beat British Fleet in the very first America's Cup race, with the match then named after the first winning boat. History was made again in 1987 when the Stars & Stripes, again skippered by Dennis Conner, took back the Cup for America against Australian Kookaburra III, skippered by Iain Murray. The movie *Wind* provides Hollywood's parallel take on these two historic races. The fictional Will Parker on the boat *Radiance* loses to Australian Jack Neville on *Boomerang*, at the 7th race, paralleling the US lost in 1983. The final movie race, in which Will Parker on the US *Geronimo*, beats out the Australian *Platypus*, mirrors the 1987 retake of America's Cup. (Rated PG-13, 126 min.)

**Wednesday August 11 On A Clear Day**

**Bill Library 6:30-9 pm**

This independent film from Britain tells the story of a man trying to come to terms with his past by setting a goal for the future: to swim across the English Channel. Frank (Peter Mullan) is a stoic man who tells his young grandson, "Things aren't meant to be fixed nowadays." After working all his life, the Glasgow shipbuilder finds himself middle-aged and jobless. His loving wife Joan (two-time Academy Award nominee Brenda Blethyn) tries to lessen the financial burden by learning to become a bus driver. Frank's relationship with his househusband son Rob (Jamie Sives) is distant at best. In the end, it's less important whether Frank's goals are met than mending his broken relationships. The finale is touching in the way it all plays out, because some things are meant to be fixed! (Rated PG-13, 98 min.)

### Senior Center Book Discussion

The monthly book talk and discussion at the senior center will be held on June 23 at 10:30 a.m. There will be no discussions in July and August but they will resume again on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in September.

### Mad Hatters/ Stitch and Dish

Stitch and Dish continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at Gales Ferry Library. The second Wednesday group meets at 7:00 pm and the fourth week is at 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join either or both groups on a drop-in basis. Bring a project to work on or something that needs help. Members are always happy to lend assistance. We also have knitting needles to loan and donated yarn for those who just want to give knitting a try.



The Mad Hatters, our community service branch, have been collecting afghans of all sizes for Madonna Place in Norwich this spring. Please bring in donations for this project by June 30. We will begin collecting hats, scarves and mittens for local community organizations on July 1. Requests for these items are numerous and needed by November, so start knitting and crocheting early.

### Jewelry Night @ the Library

Join us at Gales Ferry Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 6-8 to work on a jewelry project. Bring a project, share your knowledge or just come to have fun! Limited supplies and tools will be available.



*Libraries con't from p. 1*

The founding of the American Republic created the need for an educated citizenry – only knowledgeable voters could maintain this radically new form of government by and for the people. As a result, the decades following Independence witnessed an ever-escalating growth of free and public schools and libraries. The goal of both of these institutions was the democratization of knowledge – free to all.

Of course the dream of free and equal access to knowledge, which Francis Bacon famously equated with power, has never been fully realized – with privileged Americans having a definite advantage in attaining both. But 21<sup>st</sup> century idealists hoped that the computer and internet would provide a final breakthrough to the democratization of knowledge and power. The original plan was to digitize all the books and articles ever written and place them in “open access repositories” – where they would be available to everyone, free of charge. Unfortunately, most “non-profit” digitizing ventures have floundered. Only the profit-oriented Google Book Search has made significant progress. In 2006, Google reached an agreement with five major research libraries, giving Google the right, free of charge, to digitize their holdings; by 2009, another 27 American libraries had signed similar agreements. Once completed, Google Book Search will provide a significant digital database for the writings of the Western world. But it will be neither complete, nor free. Although Google has promised to limit what it charges for access to its database, the company must make a profit – and there is no way to limit those profits either now or in the future. Consequently, access to Google Book Search will be far more than any individual can afford – and available only through public libraries and private institutions

Fortunately public (and private) libraries have both the experience and resources to tap into Google's database. For several decades libraries have purchased databases and the tools necessary to access them. First came microfilm and microfilm readers; then electronic databases, such as “The Electric Library” and [iconn.org](http://iconn.org), electronic and downloadable books – *and* the devices needed to access, print, and download these technologies. Thus, public libraries are ideally situated to continue their traditional role of providing free access to knowledge for the communities they serve.

This important function of 21<sup>st</sup> century public libraries should have been more obvious to all of us – that is what they have always done. As Professor Darnton has pointed out, “...libraries were never warehouses of books. They have always been and always will be centers of learning.”

Marilyn Baseler, Library Assistant

## Electronic Resources

Thank you to the Library Friends for funding the electronic resources for next year. The libraries will continue to provide online access in the library and from home to several electronic databases. These include Request, the statewide catalog of library holdings, Consumer Reports, Chilton's auto repair manuals, Price it, a guide to antiques and collectibles; Testing and Education Reference Center, with sample SAT and AP exams, college guidance and more; and Legal Forms. In addition they will fund the downloadable audio and electronic books from Overdrive. For help in using any of these resources ask the reference staff to give you a demonstration.



## New Book Preview

Coulter, Catherine	Whiplash	June
Cussler, Clive	The Spy:	June
Deaver, Jeffery	The Burning Wire	June
DeMille, Nelson	The Lion	June
Evanovich, Janet	Sizzling Sixteen	June
Griffin, W.E.B.	The Vigilantes	June
Lustbader, Eric Van	Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Objective	June
Margolin, Phillip	Supreme Justice	June
Martini, Steve	The Rule of Nine	June
Sheldon, Sidney	Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness	June
Steele, Danielle	Family Ties	June
Burke, James Lee	The Glass Rainbow	July
Koontz, Dean	Frankenstein: Lost Souls	July
Pronzini, Bill	A Nameless Detective Novel	July
Brown, Sandra	Tough Customers	Aug
Connolly, John	The Whisperers	Aug
Cook, Robin	Cure	Aug
Jance, J A	Queen of the Night	Aug
Kellerman, Faye	Hangman	Aug
Smith, Martin Cruz	Three Stations	Aug
Wiesel, Elie	The Sonderberg Case	Aug

## Holiday Hours

<b>July 3, 4, &amp; 5</b>	<b>Independence Day</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>September 6</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Ledyard Fair</b>	
	<b>Bill Library</b>	<b>Closed</b>

## Donations

The library recently received donations to purchase books for the libraries. We are grateful to the donors for their support of the library.

Ledyard Lions Club - large print and audio books.  
In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Al and Carmen Manter

In addition we thank the Ledyard Garden Club for maintaining the planters in front of both libraries.

## Bill Library Display Case

June: Airline promotional material collected by Al Manter a former TWA employee

July-August: Handicrafts from the Ledyard Senior Center



## New Library Hours

The libraries will be opening one hour later at 10:00 a.m Monday – Saturday beginning on September 7<sup>th</sup> due to budget cutbacks. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Thank you to all our friends and advocates for the Gales Ferry Library. We appreciate your loyal support.

## Reference Books



The libraries have made some recent changes to their non-fiction and reference collections. The reference collections have been streamlined and are now interfiled in with the non-fiction books. Those books marked "Reference" are still for library use only but placing them along side books that do circulate will provide easier access to the information for our patrons. At Bill Library we have also made some changes to the oversize books that do not fit on standard shelves. They are now shelved sideways in the center of a stack where they will be easier to see. The word "Oversize" has been added to the call number which will alert patrons searching in the catalog to look for the oversize shelf. The library staff will be happy to assist you if you have difficulty locating a book.



## News from the Friends of Ledyard Libraries

**Monday, July 26 7 p.m. Bill Library  
Friend's quarterly meeting**



Happy summer to all of our Friends! Summer is a great time to relax with a good book, and we hope you found what you were looking for at the Gales Ferry Book sale.

All the volunteers who have worked to make the book sale a success deserve our gratitude; sorters, stackers, book-movers, cashiers, volunteer coordinators--Thank you! Many thanks to Jessie Baker for another successful year, and for all her years of making the Gales Ferry Book sale a great success. Jessie has decided to step down after this year's sale. We are at this time reviewing directions for this book sale to take. If you have thoughts or ideas, or if you are interested in volunteering (or possibly chairing future book sales in Gales Ferry) Please contact me (bshafr@aol.com, or 860-536-6008) or Carl Nelson (cnelson18@comcast.com, or 860-464-5587). Thank you, Jessie, for giving generously of your time and knowledge.

Our next big event will be the Bill Library Book sale, which takes place the week of the Ledyard Fair! Contact Marie Engelman (dremse44@att.net) if you would like to help.

This is an important year to make your voices heard, as you did by voting to support keeping the Gales Ferry Library open. Our Libraries are struggling with budget cuts and freezes. This is a time the Friends can really help. If you are not a member, consider joining (membership forms are at the library).

Attend a meeting, help with fundraising, or just come and talk to us. (Members also are able to attend the preview sales of both the Library Book sales, making the membership fee worth its weight in gold for book lovers.) The book sales run by the Friends have raised enough money to be able to make a big difference to our Libraries.

### Volunteer help needed

The program committee has been wonderfully successful at finding and scheduling interesting events, everything from Patty Carver's historical performances, to the wildly popular Fly-Tying demo, to the edge-of-your-seat book discussion with author Michael Tougias, about his true adventures on the high seas, and more. The programs are so popular that we will need a little help! We need a few volunteers who can come a little early and/or stay a little late to help set up and break down. This would be a great help. If we could get a few people we can rotate, or if you know you are attending a performance anyway, give us a call ahead if you can help! Call Betsy at 860-536-6008, or Claire Bolduc at 860-464-0366 or cfbrdh@tvconnect.net. You can also call Claire if you have program ideas or suggestions.

I hope all of our Friends are enjoying the beaches, gardens, family cookouts, and wonderful summer weather and vacations. Don't forget to bring along a good book from your local library or from the



Friends Book sale! While you are at the Library, check out a pass to a museum, sponsored by the Friends of the Ledyard Libraries.

Betsy Shafer  
[bshafr@aol.com](mailto:bshafr@aol.com)  
860-536-6008



Friends Annual Bill Library Book Sale  
September 9-18, 2010

Books, games, puzzles and lots more  
Mark your calendar now



**SUMMER HOURS**

**BILL**

860-464-9912

Monday – Thursday 9-9  
Friday 9-5  
Saturday 9-1  
Sunday Closed

email: [bill-lib@ledyard.lioninc.org](mailto:bill-lib@ledyard.lioninc.org)

**GALES FERRY**

860-464-6943

Monday – Thursday 9-8  
Friday 9-5  
Saturday 9-1  
Sunday Closed

email: [gf-lib@ledyard.lioninc.org](mailto:gf-lib@ledyard.lioninc.org)

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