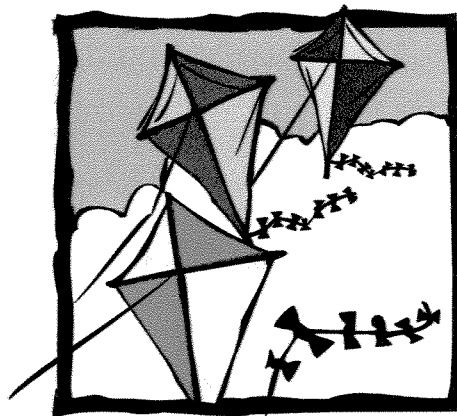


Otto Bruyns Public Library of Northfield

Spring 2008
Newsletter



Internet Workshop

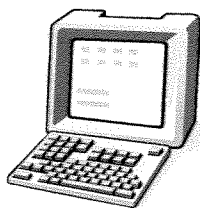
If you've never learned how to operate a personal computer or don't know how to use the Internet, then this special Library workshop at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18th is for you!



In this one-hour seminar, you will learn how to use a computer mouse, how to navigate and search the Internet, and how to find and print out information for yourself.

The Internet has revolutionized the way people find information, shop and communicate with each other around the world. If you haven't yet given the Internet a try, you may be very surprised to see what you've been missing.

We'll show you how to search for information easily, renew your car registration online, get income tax information and forms, get free street maps of any U.S. location, find and buy any book (in or out-of-print), view current news, weather and much more.



The workshop is free, but seating is limited to the first 45 participants that arrive. Please join us for a fun and informative time.

Friends of the Library Book & Bake Sale

May 3, 2008
(Rain or Shine)
10 am to 2 pm



Children's books — 25¢/50¢
Adult paperbacks — 50¢
Adult hardcovers — \$1 each
New bestsellers — \$2 each
Oversize books — \$2 and up

**All book donations are tax-deductible
and greatly appreciated!**

IN THIS ISSUE

Arriving Soon Page 2
New Book Adoptions Page 2
Essay Contest Awards Night Page 3
Book Gnomes Club Page 3
Great Children's Books Page 3
Local Author Night Page 4
Book Discussion Group Page 4
From the Bookshelf Page 5
Around the Library Page 6

Arriving Soon

FICTION

The Woman Who Wouldn't – Gene Wilder
Buckingham Palace Gardens – Anne Perry
Tell Me, Pretty Maiden – Rhys Bowen
Certain Girls – Jennifer Weiner
Zapped – Mary Balough
Road to Cana – Anne Rice
Change of Heart – Jodi Picoult
Compulsion – Jonathan Kellerman
Another Thing to Fall – Laura Lippman
Where Are You Now? – Mary Higgins Clark

*These are just some
of our new books —*

*please come in
and see them all!*



NONFICTION

Breaking News – The history of the Associated Press news bureau and its motto: "Get it first, and get it right!"

Mistaken Identity – The amazing and heartbreaking story of Laura Van Ryn and Whitney Cerak

Bill Bryson's Dictionary for Writers and Editors – From one of America's most beloved and bestselling authors, a useful and readable guide to the problems of the English language most commonly encountered by editors and writers

In Nixon's Web – The last untold story of Watergate, by L. Patrick Gray III, the FBI director who maintained his silence for more than thirty years

Sneaker Wars – The history of Adidas and Puma sneakers, and a riveting blend of family drama, business, sports, and history

Hug Your People – How to become a better leader and a better person as well

Book Adoptions

Fantasia (DVD) – Classic 1940 Disney feature-length animated cartoon with the famous "Sorcerer's Apprentice" sequence

That's Entertainment (DVD) 1970 compilation of classic MGM musicals starring Frank Sinatra, Esther Williams, Fred Astaire, Eleanor Powell, Judy Garland and hundreds more

The Girl Who Walked Home Alone – Biography of film legend Bette Davis

Earl the Squirrel – Classic children's book by Don Freeman, creator of Corduroy the Bear

Hugard's Magic Manual – Basic text of closeup and stage magic

Benny & Beautiful Baby Delilah – Children's story of a new baby in the family and how an older child grows into a big brother

Shockwave – Story of the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945

Haunted Houses – Anthology of the greatest "haunted house" stories, including ones by authors Bram Stoker and Robert Bloch



For more information about our Book Adoption Program, please see Page 4 of this newsletter. If you have questions or want to adopt a book, just stop by the Main Desk or call the Library at 646-4476.

The Northfield Public Library Newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the Otto Bruyns Public Library of Northfield, 241 Mill Road, Northfield, New Jersey 08225

Telephone: (609) 646-4476



Editors

Meg Derascavage & Seth Brilliant

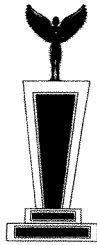
Contributors

Josephine Reese

Seth Brilliant

Awards Night Student Essay Contest

At 7 p.m. on April 8th, the Friends of the Library will present awards to the winners of their annual Student Essay Contest.



This years' contest asked the question "If you could be any animal, which one would you be and why?" All local children in the 3rd through 5th grades are eligible, and the Friends usually receive and read over 100 entries!

The awards will be presented by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo, Library Director Meg Derascavage, and Northfield School Superintendent Dr. Richard Stepura.

Family and friends are cordially invited, and light refreshments will be served after the awards ceremony.

BookGnomes Club



This popular afterschool program for third and fourth graders meets at the Library on the third Thursday of each month.

This is a reading group based upon and run very much like an adult book group. The students discuss what they have read, give opinions about the book, and learn about the author.

The program, now in its fourth year, is coordinated by Northfield Community School teacher Michele Gano, who handles sign-ups and notifies the students of the book choices and meeting dates, and by library assistant Jo Reese, who selects the books and runs the meetings.

For more information, contact Library Director Meg Derascavage at 646-4476.



Great Children's Reading At The Library

By Josephine Reese, Library Assistant

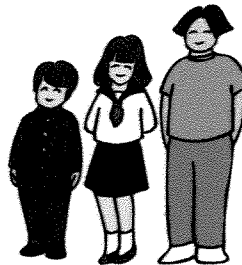
For elementary grades

Mrs. Lovewright and Purless the Cat – A new cat does not cuddle and purr as Mrs. Lovewright had expected. The antics of Purless the Cat are wonderful, and there is a surprise happy ending.

My Spring Robin – On the first day of Spring, a little girl goes looking for the robin whose song she remembered from last summer. She finds daffodils, a bee and a toad, but no robin. Where could he be?

Someplace Else – All her life, Mrs. Tilby lived in a white house by an apple orchard. Then she decides to take her truck and find a new home. What she does will surprise you!

Ready, Set, Skip – Jane can't learn to skip, until her mother shows her a special trick.



For middle schoolers

Danger After Dark – Six girls discover how talented and unique they are as they solve mysteries and have exciting adventures.

Main Street: Thread & Needle – The changes that tie four friends together give them the strength to work things out, one stitch at a time.

Crooked River – A vivid look into the reality of rugged frontier life and justice.

The Blue Sword (Newberry Award Winner) – When Herry Crewe's father dies, she must leave her homeland and travel East to Istan, the last outpost of the Homelander Empire where her older brother is stationed. Magic and mystery follow her there.

Local Author Night



At 7 p.m. on April 17th, in conjunction with National Library Week, Northfield resident Jeff Margolis will speak about two of the books he has written in his "Issues in Focus" series: *Violence in Sports: Victory at Any Price* and *Teen Crime Wave: A Growing Problem*.

Mr. Margolis is a Program Specialist at Rowan University and a prolific author. Please join us for a stimulating discussion and the first of our "Local Author" Nights!

Book Discussion Group



The Book Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m., at the Library.

You can participate or just listen and enjoy the discussion. The book being discussed will be *Another Man's Son* by Katherine Stone.

Copies of the book selection are available at the Library on request.

Adopt-A-Book

Adopting a book is a very special way . .

- to celebrate a birth, anniversary, graduation or other special event
- to honor an individual
- to say "Thank You" to someone
- to provide a lasting memorial
- to give a unique, unusual gift

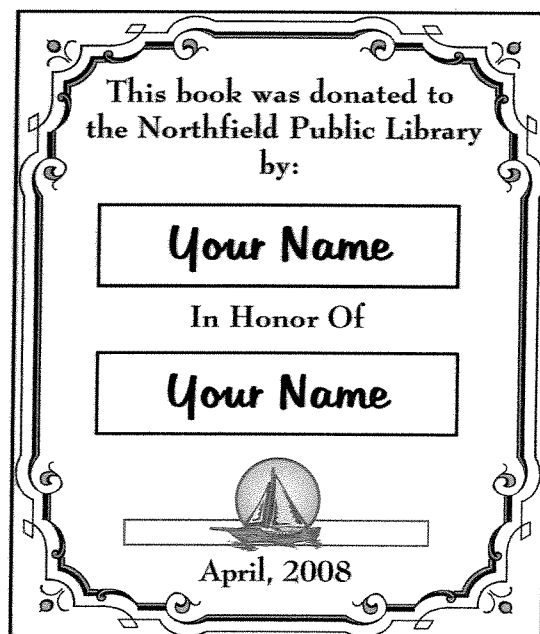
In 2007, twenty-five new books were adopted. We're very proud of this accomplishment, and we thank all of our donors for their generosity.



The Library's new "Adopt-A-Book" program makes it easy. Simply choose a book from the new books that the Library receives each week.

You may select from fiction, non-fiction, reference or children's books. Prices are based on the library's cost and are usually \$12 - \$25.

To adopt a book, just donate the library's actual cost of the book, plus \$2. A personalized bookplate will be mounted into your book, which is then placed in circulation, and you can be the very first person to check

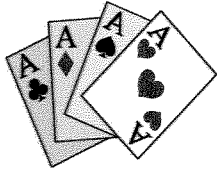


the book out! A copy of the bookplate will also be sent to you, along with a note acknowledging your donation.

Your "book adoption" will make a unique gift and a permanent contribution to the community. As always, your contribution to the Library is tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

For more information, please stop at the Main Desk and ask for Librarian Meg Derascavage. You can also call her at the Library at 646-4476.

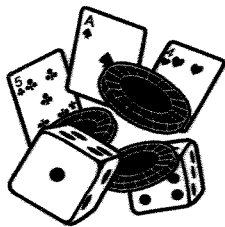
Gambling and Gamblers



Although we live in an area that is funded and fueled by casino gaming, some people know very little about gambling or the history of various casino games.

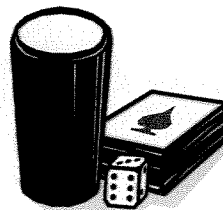
Since humans have gambled for over 6,000 years, gambling has a very long and colorful history. The classic casino games of roulette, baccarat, blackjack and craps have been played for hundreds of years; each one has an interesting story behind it.

For concise but thorough introductions to these games, the best reference is John Scarne's Complete Guide to Gambling (1961/1974/2005, Simon & Schuster). In addition to providing the history of each game, Mr. Scarne adds valuable information about the actual odds of winning each bet, as well as advice on protecting yourself from being cheated. There are also anecdotes about big winners, big losers and big cheaters. My own favorite involves Mr. Scarne's discovery of a gimmicked roulette wheel with a magnetized roulette ball; he secretly switched the crooked roulette ball for a regular one, and proceeded to teach the cheaters an expensive lesson!



Scarne also discusses the laws of probability, and how a "game of chance" actually works. He explains why all betting systems ultimately fail, and the concept of the "Gambler's Fallacy." There's also a great section on carnival games such as Ring Toss, Spot the Spot, Duck Pond and Roll Down, with detailed descriptions of how the games can be played straight or "strong" (crooked).

Mr. Scarne was quite an interesting fellow himself. In his autobiography, The Odds Against Me (Simon & Schuster, 1966), he explains that as a child growing up in Bergen, New Jersey, he was exposed to a large number of traveling carnivals and grifters. Their secrets and sleights fascinated him, and he pressed them into teaching him. John became a professional magician, but also had a head for figures and was able to calculate the odds for all the wagers, which gave him a tremendous advantage. He had great respect for card sharks and dice mechanics, whom he termed "the magicians of the underworld."



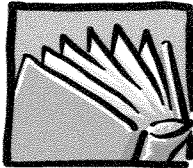
Mr. Scarne eventually became a consultant to the Hilton Hotel Corporation, and he traveled the world setting up casinos, training their staffs and uncovering scams and cheats. He also was an advisor to the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in the 1970's, when casino gambling was first instituted in this state.

If you're curious about the laws of probability and how they are calculated, Lady Luck by Warren Weaver (Dover, 1982) is a fine introduction to probability theory, with plenty of good examples and a minimum of arithmetic to confuse you.

If slots are your interest, Marshall Fey's Slot Machines (Nevada Publications, 1983) is a pictorial history of the slot machine, told by the grandson of its inventor, Charles Fey. There are wonderful pictures of the old mechanical three-reel "one-armed bandits" made by Mills, Jennings, Watling and others. They aren't as quick as today's computer-controlled slot machines, but they are definitely works of art, with their elaborate engraved cases and artwork.

*Don't miss the
Library Book/Bake
Sale on May 4th!
See Page 1 for details*

Northfield Public Library
241 W. Mill Road
Northfield, N.J. 08225



Around the Library

We've just added a new bookcase to the Classics section along the rear wall of the Library, with lots of great books. And once again we have to thank Charles and Jean Lawless of the Friends of the Library for their "sweat equity" in assembling and installing the bookcase for us.

We are also planning to expand the Audiobooks section with more shelf space and more audio books, because that what our patrons have told us that they want.



Which reminds us, if YOU have a suggestion, please let us know by dropping it in our Suggestion Box, located at the Main Desk. This is your library, and we want to hear from you!

If you like books and libraries, please consider joining the Friends of the Library. The Friends meet at the Library on the first Thursday of every month, and they supplement the Library's offerings with special events, book sales and other activities. Dues are just \$5 a year.

Help make a difference in your community! Call Heather at 645-2831 for more information.