

# ASHAWAY FREE LIBRARY

15 KNIGHT ST., ASHAWAY RI, 401 377-2770, [ASHFREELIB.ORG](http://ASHFREELIB.ORG)

HOURS: MON & FRI 10-5, TUES & THURS 4-8, WED 10-8, SAT 9-1

## Library Team

Head Librarian Heather Field. Staff: Amy Forbes, Josh Fowler, Brenda Laing, Nancy Martell. Substitutes: Peggy Roever, Emily LeMay

Board of Trustees: Donna Bailey, Dave Bettger, Lorna Caulfield, Sara Clark, Fran Cohen, Dezmarie Doyle, Judie Freeman, Betsy Mercer, Ray Mitchell, Linda Sardone, Jessica Swain, Bob Ward. Share your ideas and suggestions: [afl15knightst@hotmail.com](mailto:afl15knightst@hotmail.com)

### BEFORE



### AFTER



## The Old Year Ends Brightly

For the first time in more than two decades, the Ashaway Free Library has a fresh coat of paint! This bright face-lift was made possible by a grant from the **Champlin Foundation** and the generosity of **Carissa Booth, Manager of the Sherwin-Williams Paint** store in Westerly. Local **Painter Paul Bond** did a beautiful job, carefully scheduling work to minimize disruption to patrons. The **Thrivent Financial Foundation** also helped by providing archival-quality boxes to protect our local history collection during all of our renovations, a new literature rack for the front hallway, T-shirts, snacks, and cleaning supplies for volunteers who made the Library paint-ready. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who made this possible! And check out what's coming next.....



**Trustee Ray Mitchell and Painter Paul Bond**

## The New Year Begins with Excitement

The AFL is excited to announce there will be more major improvements to come. On "leap day," that extra last day in February, work will begin to lay new carpeting and add new shelving. Imagine, carpeting that doesn't look like the original artificial grass! Imagine, shelving that matches and efficiently accommodates the collection! Imagine, upgraded Internet wiring! We are grateful to the **Champlin Foundation** and the **Kimball Foundation** for the financial support that makes it possible to update and upgrade the Ashaway Free Library.

The process can be a little overwhelming to plan. More than nine vendors are involved and timing is everything. The Library will be emptied with contents safely stored as the work progresses. Did you know that in New England there is company that specializes in moving libraries? And a family-owned company that customizes shelving plans for individual libraries? The AFL staff and Board of Trustees are learning a lot.

Every effort is being made to minimize the length of time the AFL will need to be closed. Our best estimate is between three and six weeks, depending on weather and the timely arrival of various workers. Be sure the Library has your email address for regular updates. For those without Internet access, we will post estimated re-opening dates on the door. Your books can still be returned to the AFL drop box and during the closing you can use any of the other area libraries' resources.

The good news is that this century-old facility will be more welcoming than ever. The new circulation desk and new furnishings for the children's area will look more at home on the new carpeting. Rearranged shelving will allow easier movement for patrons with more natural light. Shelving will appear more finished with canopies (tops) and wooden end pieces. When the work is completed, we are planning a little party to reintroduce the community to their venerable but "all new" village Library.

## Book Reviews

### Lunch in Paris - A Love Story with Recipes by Elizabeth Bard

A French boyfriend, the bounty of the fresh food markets and eateries of Paris, strolling through classic French museums and parks, vacationing in the lovely French countryside and along the coastline - what could possibly make a young American woman experiencing all these adventures unhappy? Plenty, it turns out. The reality of cultural differences and legal restrictions almost overwhelm writer and journalist Elizabeth Bard. Without a green card, she is barred from seeking employment. Even as she grows homesick for American friendliness and puzzles over the loss of her professional ambition, she finds solace in choosing and preparing food that develops into a passion for French cuisine. Season by season, she cooks up a collection of borrowed recipes for comfort, for entertaining and in joyous celebration of what is available that day. I marveled at the simplicity of many of the recipes that close each chapter. And, this is a love story too, between Elizabeth and her French beau as well as the language and essence of France itself. Unlike so many ex-pat memoirs that paint an eternally rosy picture of living in Paris, I appreciated Bard's description of the difficulties of adapting to life in France and negotiating important relationships both old and new. This is an insider's guide to the best and most challenging aspects of France. Be an insider for the time it takes you to read this book and extend the pleasure with the many appealing recipes.

--Linda Sardone

### Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson

I'm not a "techie" and have to admit to skimming a good portion of Isaacson's 600 page plus biography but I finally succumbed to fascination. In the span of human history, everyday computer use by the average person at work or at play is as revolutionary as the introduction of electricity or escaping the earth's atmosphere. And it is the charisma, force of will and design savvy of Steve Jobs that made it so. Jobs was a complex man with an abundance of character flaws. He is the King Arthur of technology, the patron saint of accomplishing the impossible and a man of our time who inspires generations. An excellent companion piece to this book is CNN's recent video tribute to Steve Jobs.

--Fran Cohen

## History of the AFL's Most Popular Crafts Program



The very popular rubber stamping/card making program offered at the AFL every month had its beginnings back in 2002 when staff member Peggy Roever offered a Christmas crafts program for children with 15 children in attendance. She continued to offer a program each year for the children and in February 2003, Peggy offered the first adult program with a Valentine/Spring theme. Six people attended and 9 attended the next program at Christmas. Word spread and attendance keeps climbing.

Holiday themed programs continued to be offered for Valentine's Day, Easter/Spring, Fall/Halloween, Christmas/Winter. As the program became more popular and attracted more participants, Kathy Petkis assisted Peggy and when Kathy moved to South Carolina, Judie Freeman stepped in. The program currently operates on a monthly basis with a limit of 18 participants and Peggy and Judie are now assisted by Margaret Brady. The Christmas program is offered twice to accommodate demand.

Peggy has always donated her time and her own materials, and for many years the program was offered at no charge. Today, there is a \$7 program fee that allows the completion of at least 5 projects. Considering that a nice greeting card can cost up to \$5, completing 5 cards for \$7 is a bargain and the process is fun. And don't imagine hand-made construction paper products! The cards that are produced are creative, tasteful, and beautiful (see photo below). Participants are asked to bring their own scissors and various types of adhesives. All proceeds are donated to the Library.

Dates for the beginning of 2016 are Wednesday, January 27 and Wednesday, February 24. All sessions are held from 6-8 pm. Advance registration is required for these programs and notification for registration is sent out via e-mail, so be sure we have your e-mail address. When the class is full, names are taken for a waiting list.







**Letters to Santa**

During the Ashaway Holiday Stroll, the Library welcomed children with an opportunity to write letters to Santa. We certainly hope all those requests got a positive response!

**In the Upcoming Months...**

Plans are being made for an early spring painting event where you can release your inner artist with friends and refreshments. There will be news about a new NASA Solar System Ambassador in the neighborhood. More card making dates will be announced. Stay tuned!

*The Ashaway Free Library wishes you the Happiest of New Years!*



**REMINDER!**

The Ashaway Free Library will close on February 29 for remodeling. It will be closed for 3-6 weeks and we will keep you posted about the date of the grand re-opening. Watch your email for updates!

*\*The Ashaway Free Library, A cherished neighborhood institution since 1871\**