

# ASHAWAY FREE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2016

**Ashaway Free Library, 15 Knight St., 401 377 2770**  
**www.ashawaylibrary.org director@ashawaylibrary.org**  
**Hours: Mon & Fri 10-5, Tues & Thurs 4-8, Wed 10-8, Sat 9-1**

**Note: The State-wide Amnesty Day for overdue materials is April 16. Call the AFL for details.**

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## **NASA AMBASSADOR AT THE AFL!**

Our very own Librarian Heather Field is now a NASA Ambassador! Solar System Ambassadors are a nationwide network of volunteers for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. They are trained to share the excitement of space science and exploration with their communities. Heather is looking forward to sharing her love of space and astronomy through a series of programs at the Ashaway Free Library. Two events are already planned to make sure everyone has an out-of-this-world April school vacation!

### **Explore Mars with Meteor the Mousetronaut, Wednesday, April 20, 2 pm**

We'll read about Meteor's adventures, do a craft, and have some time to color special Mars coloring sheets from NASA. This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required so we can be sure to have enough materials for the craft. Please call the library at 401-377-2770 to register your child.

### **Solar System Scavenger Hunt, April 18-April 23 (drop in)**

During the library's regular hours throughout vacation week we'll be hosting a solar system scavenger hunt. Follow clues to find different solar system

objects hidden in the library. Find all of the objects and win a prize! Stop by the circulation desk for a scavenger hunt worksheet. This is a drop-in event and no registration is required.

## Attention Downton Abbey Fans!

If you've found yourself feeling a little down since the big season six finale, the Ashaway Free Library has the perfect pick-me-up in store for you. On Saturday, April 23, at 2:00 pm, we will be hosting Ren Antonowicz's "Spirits of Fashion" presentation on the style of Downton Abbey. Join us for this hour-long program and revisit all of the wonderful clothing from the Edwardian era and beyond.



Whether you favored Lady Mary's elegant dresses, Lady Edith's practical choices, or the smart, masculine style of Lord Grantham, there will be something to delight every Downton Abbey fan. Tea will be served, of course, and please feel free to \*really\* get in the spirit and wear your own Downton-inspired items. Hats, gloves, blouses, suits, dresses--all are welcome and encouraged but certainly not required. This program is part of the library's ongoing Alfred and Ruth Siciliano Memorial Lecture Series and is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

## Annual Book and Plant Sale Saturday May 14, 9-1

Held rain or shine for years beyond memory, the AFL book and plant sale gives friends and neighbors the opportunity to meet and greet while browsing among thousands of books, choosing from a variety of bargain priced annual and perennial plants, and enjoying home baked treats.

Your help is needed to make this year's sale a success. Please

- Donate baked goods or potted plants - drop off at the library late Friday afternoon May 13 or by 8 AM Saturday
- Volunteer for a 2 hour period the day of the sale - sign up with the Librarian
- Tell all your friends to put the sale on their calendar

This year, book sorting is a bit more organized and a special section on

gardening and nature books will be set up near the plant sale. While plants will be priced, books and baked goods will be available for a donation. If you are a shopper who isn't sure how much to donate for books and baked goods, think about what the items would cost in the store, what the items are worth to you and how much you can afford, and how much your donation helps the library

P.S. Make a day of it on the 14th by stopping by the 4th Annual "Spring Fling-It" MEGA Yard Sale at Ashaway Elementary School, 12A Hillside Ave. 9-1, Rain or Shine.

## Adult Card Making/Rubber Stamping Program

Be sure you are on our e-mail list to receive notification of our monthly card-making program. This popular craft class led by Peggy Roever and Judie Freeman fills up quickly. Classes run from 6-8 pm and advance registration is required. \$7 covers 5 projects per class.

## New AFL Website Debut

Since the library got a new look recently, it seemed only fitting for its Web site to get a makeover as well. Thanks to help from the Kimball Foundation and Web designer Phil Stillman, we are debuting our new site, complete with a new Web address, at [www.ashawaylibrary.org](http://www.ashawaylibrary.org). You'll find all of the information you're used to seeing--information on our events and programs, directions to the library, and a direct link to the online catalog--as well as a lot of new things we're hoping you'll find useful. There is a selection of back issues of the newsletter to browse, a list of ways to get involved with the library, a link to our Facebook page, a form to sign up for our E-mail updates, and much more. Take a look and tell us what you think!

## Renovation Rundown

What does it take to bring a nineteenth century library into the twenty-first century? Months and months of planning by an intrepid board of trustees, courage and support from a hard working library staff, the good will of understanding patrons, generous foundation support, and more than 10 local and regional vendors.



The Ashaway Free Library (AFL) started as a reading room in 1871 and has served the community continuously since then. Around 1907 the Ashaway Kindergarten was purchased at auction for \$101 and moved on log rollers from Church St to Knight St to house the growing book collection. Over the years, additions and improvements have been made to the original one room schoolhouse to keep up with the times. Looking around at walls that hadn't been painted in decades, at mismatched multicolored shelving, water stained

ceiling tiles, and carpeting resembling some ancient AstroTurf, we knew it was time for one of those updates. Thanks to funding from the Champlin Foundation and the Kimball Foundation, the work has been accomplished. Special thanks goes to the Langworthy Library for giving Heather Field "visiting librarian status" allowing her to conduct essential services such as book returns while the building was closed.

An amazing amount of work was accomplished in only three weeks. There is now an aisle alongside the windows on the Knight Street side of the building, letting in lots of natural light. The matching shelving with wood end pieces bring a cohesive look that is nicely set off by the new carpeting. The roof no longer leaks and network wiring has been updated. There are a few practical and decorative touches yet to be applied but all in all, it feels like our forebears of more than a century are looking down on the results with maternal and paternal pride.



## Drink and Dabble

More than 30 budding artists joined this March 10 paint night event at the 11th Green Restaurant at Wood River Golf. Attendees enjoyed music, food and beverages while being tutored and encouraged by experts.

The selected motif was a blue vase with sunflowers but each masterpiece produced was unique. This was a fun event we plan to offer in the future.

## Spring Appeal

Because the AFL is not a municipal library and receives only partial support from the Town and the State we depend on the generosity of the community to meet operating expenses. For 145 years, contributions from friends and neighbors have enabled the continuous operation of this cherished institution. Please join this tradition and give what you can to the upcoming Spring Appeal. Consider making a gift in honor of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday, graduation, Mother's or Father's Day. We'll be sure the honoree receives notice of your gift from the Library. Or you can write in the Ashaway Free Library as a recipient of your United Way donation.