

# Big News!

## ASHAWAY FREE LIBRARY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FALL 2017

Contact us: 401 377 2770  
director@ashawaylibrary.org  
www.ashawaylibrary.org

**Library Hours: Mondays and Fridays 10-5, Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-8,  
Wednesdays 10-8, Saturday 9-1**



### **Behind Every Great Community is a Great Library**

We *are* a great community and we *have* a great library. For more than 145 years the Ashaway Free Library has been enriching the community by providing resources, services and programming for personal skills, self-improvement, career advancement, cultural enjoyment, entertainment, and creative activities. We serve 16,000 visitors a year, circulate 20,000 books and media, have more than 2,300 log-ons in 6 months, and are financially stable.

In 2013 the Library completed a Community Study and Five Year Plan. We have accomplished all of the goals we set with the exception of the final goal: *A community room that will enhance the Library's public service orientation and better involve and engage the community.*

Maybe you've heard the talk. Maybe you saw the architect's rendering at the Spring Book Sale or the Volunteer Dinner. Yes, it's true! The Board of Trustees is working to build a 20'x30' Community Room and improve entrance accessibility. Every half century or so, the AFL needs a bit of an update. We started with an old schoolhouse moved to Knight St in the early 1900's. In the 1960's the Crandall addition gave us a

children's section and the circulation desk area. And now, well into the second decade of the twenty-first century, it's time to provide a programming and meeting space that will also be used for individual and group work. It will be located just to the right of the library as you face the entrance.

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 for the community room addition and begin construction in 2018. For more information on our future plans or to volunteer your ideas or services, please contact Fran Cohen, President of the Board of Trustees at 401 377-3055. We are busily seeking foundation funding and will start a Capital Campaign in the near future. Watch for more information!



## What Rare and Beautiful Historic Treasures are Hidden Nearby?

Watch for more information about a very special Spring event!



## Beautiful Hand Made Greeting Cards

Have you shopped recently for greeting cards at a card shop, drug store or discount store? The price for a single card has increased tremendously and frankly, the

choices available aren't always great. Here's an opportunity to stock up on hand made artful greeting cards at the comparatively low price of \$2 each (10 for \$15). The quality and originality of the card outshines anything you'll see in a shop. The cards are made by an AFL craft group led by Judie Freeman and Peggy Roeber and all proceeds from sales will go to the AFL Capital Campaign for the new Community Room. Included are cards for holidays, birthday cards, and other general greetings. Get them at the Circulation Desk while they're available!



### **Reminder: When Shopping on Amazon, Make the AFL Smile**

The AFL has already gotten a small contribution from Amazon because shoppers register the AFL as their preferred charity. Click here to register and get more information: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Once you are registered, just use smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com to log on. Your computer should do that automatically. Your wish list and account will remain the same. All products, prices, and procedures are the same as regular Amazon ordering and you are painlessly throwing a little support to your village library! Please spread the word and register today.

### **September 2018 River Cruise to Spain & Portugal Still Available**

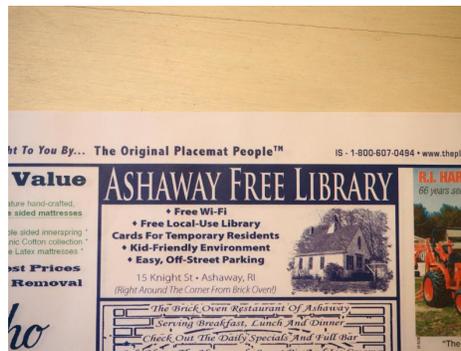
Explore the itinerary for a 14 day luxury cruise in Portugal and Spain at [River Cruise](#). Booking the trip through the AFL will benefit the Library. Flyers with the itinerary and pricing information are available at the circulation desk. For more information, call the Library or Judie Freeman at 401 322-9067.

### **Trivia Fun**

Almost forty people enjoyed the August 27 Trivia Game at Buon Appetito. AFL Board member and trivia organizer par excellence Krislyn Launer produced a great range of trivia questions that both challenged and made you



## The AFL Dines Out



The AFL has lots of loyal patrons but some folks are new to the community or are seasonal visitors. The Library has an obligation to inform newcomers of this valuable community resource. We recently took advantage of an affordable opportunity to reach out to those who don't know about our wonderful little library. For as long as they last, 10,000 placemats at the Brick Oven restaurant will feature this AFL ad. And you, loyal patrons, can help spread the word too.

## AND THE WORLD WENT DARK (OR AT LEAST A LITTLE DIM)



Where were you during the Great American Eclipse of 2017? For 99 local people, the answer is-at the Ashaway Free Library! Librarian Heather Field is a volunteer Solar System Ambassador for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and was able to get 50 pairs of safety-certified solar filter glasses in order to host an eclipse-viewing event at the library.



Even though the eclipse was a partial eclipse in our area, excitement levels were still very high! Because the glasses supply was limited, folks started lining up early to be sure they got a pair. First in line was Karen Mann, librarian at Ashaway Elementary School! Mrs. Mann arrived right after we opened at 10a AM and spent the day with us. She even used her social media accounts to offer to share her glasses with people that didn't have any. We had an even bigger, better time thanks to her.

We had many more people in line than we had pairs of glasses well before the distribution time of 1 PM. It was wonderful that so many groups and families were willing to share among themselves so that more people could participate in this special event. Anyone that arrived after all of the glasses were spoken for was encouraged to stay and share, and many did. While we waited for the eclipse to be visible here, we were able to enjoy a perfect view of totality as it began in Oregon via NASA TV's live feed on a big

screen set up inside the library.

The eclipse started locally at 1:27PM and we were all outside with our glasses, ready to watch, right on time. Everyone had a fabulous day taking peeks at the eclipse as it progressed, sharing glasses, and using simple science tools like a spaghetti strainer and cereal box to experiment with different ways of experiencing the eclipse. It was really a sun-sational day to be at the Ashaway Free Library!

## **Save the Date for the Holiday Stroll:**

### **Saturday, December 9**

The AFL will participate in the annual Ashaway Holiday Stroll with a Holiday Like-New Book Sale and Gift Basket raffle from 9 AM to 2 PM. Children will be writing letters to Santa from 10 AM to 12 noon. Plans are being made so watch form more information.

## **Ever Think of Volunteering?**

Every Fall the AFL honors its many volunteers with a pot luck supper. Who are these people and what do they do? Some volunteers are students looking for community service projects. Some are retirees wanting to make a difference. Some are employed full time but have an hour or two to spare here and there. Here's what AFL volunteers can do: serve on the Board of Trustees, shelve books, offer tech tutoring, read at story hour, organize spring plant sale, bake goodies for library events, sort donated books for winter and spring sale, offer craft workshops and more..... Interested in becoming part of the AFL Family? Call us at 377-2770.

## **AFL Needs Book Sorters**

Do you have a couple hours to spare on a Wednesday morning or maybe a weekend? Do you love books in all their variety? Think about joining Betsy Mercer, our experienced Book Sorting Wonder Woman as she makes order out of a chaos of donated books.

## **What's in a Number?**

Have you ever looked at the back of your library card and wondered what the numbers mean? Probably not. Most people have better things to do. Here's a tip. If the first five numbers are 2 5988, then you are registered as a patron of Ashaway Free Library. If those are not your numbers, the AFL librarian will be happy to give you a new card. Why bother? When you request books the delivery location will automatically be the AFL. In the RI Library System you will officially become an AFL patron. It's good for the library to have official patron numbers reflect the number of people who are frequent library users.

## **Ashaway Free Library Book Donation Policy**

Book sales are an important part of any library's fundraising efforts and we appreciate your donations. In order to make the most of these donations, the Board

of Trustees has established the following book donation policy.

- The library accepts donations of recent books, books recorded on CD's, music CD's and DVD's. These should be clean and in good condition.
- Some donations may be added to the library's collection but most will be sold for fundraising.
- Books that may be considered vintage, antique or are of historical value will be accepted if they are in reasonably good condition.
- We do not accept donations of cassettes, VHS tapes, magazines, textbooks or encyclopedias or other materials that are dated. These can be recycled at the local landfill.
- Books that may be considered vintage, antique or are of historical value will be accepted if they are in reasonably good condition.

If you need an acknowledgement for tax purposes, the library will be happy to provide one though we cannot give your donation a dollar value. Thank you for thinking of the Ashaway Free Library. Your contributions are very important to us!

## Library Team

**Director:** Heather Field. **Staff:** Josh Fowler, Brenda Laing, Cheryl Baker, Amy Forbes  
Substitutes: Emily LeMay, Tyler Vaughan

**Board of Trustees:** Elizabeth Algieri, Lorna Caulfield, Sara Clark, Fran Cohen,  
Dezmarie Doyle, Judie Freeman, Krislyn Launer, Tara Roesberg, Karen St Peter, Bob  
Ward

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"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better." Sidney Sheldon

See what's happening on our social site:

