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

Quarterly Newsletter, Winter 2019



---STAY TUNED.....---



Star Reading Challenge

It's that time again, readers: the Hopkinton Libraries STAR Reading Challenge. Read 50 books in 3 months! Librarians at Langworthy and Ashaway have selected 40 books for this challenge and readers pick an 10 additional books.

Children up to around 7 years of age with their parents are challenged to read all 50 books in 3 months. Stop by the library for a pamphlet to track your progress. All completed pamphlets must be returned to the library by March 30, 2019 to win a prize! All participants in the reading challenge are invited to join us for a party on April 6, 2019.

Good luck and happy reading!

Escape the gray winter doldrums with a Trivia fundraiser. Tentative plans are afoot to hold the event at a local restaurant in late February or early March. You can form a team of 2 -6 or join a team when you arrive. There will be prizes for First and Second Place and the restaurant's full menu will be available. Be sure to look for more details in your email, on the Library's Facebook page, or on the AFL web page.

Community Room

The AFL Has a New Laptop!

Thanks to support from the Chariho Rotary Club, the AFL has its first laptop computer for the use of patrons. This will supplement the three desktop computers the Library offers. Patrons can view the user policy and begin using the laptop on Library premises in mid-January.



Construction News



A very wet autumn and the usual inevitable building delays have slowed construction of the new Community Room but we are getting there. Thank you for your patience as you use the High Street entrance and the outside book drop on Knight St. Now that the roof is finished and the windows are installed, things should move along more quickly. Siding is going up and insulation and wallboard will follow soon. If you have been meaning to make a donation to the Capital Campaign, it is not too late. All donations are gratefully accepted.



Golden Horseshoes

Just what you didn't know you always wanted! For a \$50 donation to the Capital

Campaign you can own your own golden horseshoe to hang over your front door. They come direct from the Field of Dreams Farm in North Stonington where the Carriage Barn event took place (see photos below) and are (sort of) guaranteed to bring you good luck.

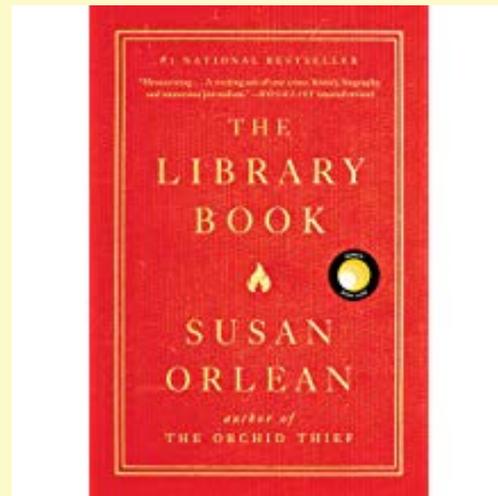


Connecting with a Book Club

From zero to six! Friend of the AFL Jan Prochaska tells us about finding different book clubs...

For years I envied my friends in Rhode Island when they talked about "their book clubs" and the books and passages of life they experienced with the members for over 20 and 30 plus years. I was always too busy with work and responsibilities and besides, no one ever asked me to join their book club.

Now that I've sold my business and moved to California, I'm not so busy, I decided to open wide any doors that



Book Recommendation

The Library Book by Susan Orlean
You may remember an interesting non-fiction read from a few years ago called *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean. Her newest is a fascinating look at the Los Angeles Central Library that was

appeared. The manager of the local bookstore told me about a monthly Book Swap at a local restaurant. Anyone is invited. Each person brings a favorite book, describes it briefly, and then picks a number. When all 8 to 12 people are done sharing, number 1 has the first choice and takes one of the reviewed books home. No pressure, new friends, and a new book to read!

Next, I discovered my local library has three onsite book clubs – I chose to attend the Award-Winning Women’s American Novelists Club. Then, I learned that my congregation was starting a book club. Here there was a steadier consistency of members to create more connections of books with our lives. Later, a women’s club I joined invited me to attend their ongoing Book Club in their library.

A new in-town friend told me how she didn’t like book clubs per se but wanted to read a book in common. So, we decided to do a 1 on 1 club. Together we select a book, then get together for tea at the local bookstore café. After a stimulating discussion, we select the next book there. And finally, last month, after others witnessed my keen interest in books, I was asked to join a club that just celebrated its 10th year. It meets in members' homes and needed a 10th member to complete its circle.

The multiple readings and meetings are not too much to handle since there is often overlap with different clubs reading the same book. Some of the clubs do not meet monthly. And then there are the times when I dislike a book and stop reading after 100 pages or less. I still attend the meeting though, to understand and ponder what some people appreciate about the book that I might be missing.

Sometimes I wonder if I have entered too many doors but these clubs are excellent opportunities to connect with a broad range of people and books in my community.

....If you are interested in starting a book club, talk with Librarian Heather Field about your ideas!

It Was Spook-tacular!
Last October, kids of all ages

devastated by fire in 1986. Published in the style of a library book, with no jacket, a red cloth cover and a sign-out imprint on the back, the book is part who-done-it, part library history, part post-fire recovery story, and wholly interesting. What happens when a library burns for 7 hours? How are 700,000 wet books salvaged with help from NASA and others? Orlean calls libraries "society's original co-working space....a place of knowledge that is nonjudgmental, inclusive, and fundamentally kind." Available at the AFL, this is a fun must-read for all library fans.

Some Notes About the Library's Annual Fund

In the next few weeks you will be receiving a request to contribute to the Library's Annual Fund. The Town of Hopkinton and the State of Rhode Island contribute only 68% of our annual operating budget and the Board of Trustees is responsible for finding the remaining funds. Fundraising events like our annual book and plant sale help but we count on the Annual Fund to provide a good portion of the deficit.

*Even though the tax law has changed your Library's needs haven't. The Ashaway Free Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Whether or not you itemize your charitable deductions, we hope you will feel pride in supporting this important community resource.

*Are you a regular participant in the United Way Fund drive? Did you know that you can designate the Ashaway Free Library as a charity that benefits from your contribution?

*Ask whether your employer participates in matching funds for your charitable donations and ask what forms are required. Lots of our loyal supporters double their contributions

enjoyed getting to know some "scary" animals: snakes, bats, spiders, and skunks. Kids even had a chance to touch some of the animals at this popular event.



in this way.

*Consider becoming a "sustaining supporter" by calling the Library to arrange a monthly credit card deduction. It's relatively painless and a small monthly amount adds up to a generous annual donation.

*If you are over 72 years of age you are required to take a minimum distribution from your retirement account. If you give a portion of this money to charity (the Ashaway Free Library!!) you don't have to pay income tax on the amount donated. Ask your financial institution about how this works.

*Do you struggle to find an appropriate gift for some friends and family? How about a donation to the Library in their honor? We'll gladly send them a card noting your generosity in their name. This is a great gift idea for teachers, caregivers, Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays. *(Editor's note: My favorite Christmas present this year was a small check made out to the AFL in my honor by my oldest grandson employed in his first real job.)*

Fun at the Carriage Barn

Autumn seemed like the perfect time to spend the day at the Field of Dreams Farm in nearby North Stonington. About 70 guests enjoyed the beautiful Amish-built barn, the historic wagons, surreys, and sleighs, the handsome Shire and Friesian horses, music, face painting and crafts for the kids and lots of good things to eat. Thanks to our sponsors: Pelloni Farms, Simplicity Farms, Stop and Shop, Bess Eaton, Dunkin' Donuts, Paul Roever, and Frito-Lay. We hope to make this a yearly fundraising event.





*Your friends at the Ashaway
Free Library wish you and
yours a very Happy New
Year!*

This Issue's Library Quote "My first library gave me the freedom to exist in private, to choose and even be greedy. I took 10 books the first time — illustrated books, fables, fairy tales and happy stories of white children and their kind parents. A week later, now initiated, I was allowed to walk to the library by myself, carrying the 10 books I had finished reading, knowing I could choose many more to furnish my vast secret room, my imagination, all mine."— **Amy Tan**, *"Where the Past Begins"*

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