Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2019

Game Time!

The new community room is shaping up with tables for spreading out with books or a laptop (yours or ours), comfortable chairs, a drop-by puzzle table, colorful board games (get game pieces from the librarian) and a Trivia game. And as you will see below, the new space allows many, many program choices. Come in and enjoy!

For Your Convenience

Can’t Remember Library Hours?
Library hours are always included at the top of the newsletter but if you haven’t got them memorized, fear not! New “Open” flags will be flying from our new porch at the parking lot and from the sign on High Street side of the building. Now you will know at a glance when you can walk right in, always using the parking lot entrance.

Three Ways to Return Books
The dark green book drop located...
UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Saturday Tech Support
Do you need some help with a new computer, tablet or other device? Want to set up an email account? Need to know about cloud storage, Bluetooth or social media? Do you know about your computer’s features for the visually impaired? Technology tutor Victor Pereira is available to work with patrons one-on-one every other Saturday (with a few exceptions). His schedule for the summer will be:
Saturday, July 13, 9AM to 11AM
Saturday, August 3, 9AM to 11AM
Saturday, August 10, 9AM to 11AM
Saturday, August 24, 9AM to 11AM
Sessions are 30 minutes long. This is a popular service so pick a day and give us a call (401-377-2770) to check availability and sign up. Walk-ins will be welcome if a particular time slot has not already been reserved.

Pilgrims of Woodstock
Tuesday, July 16, 6:00 PM
Join us at the Ashaway Free Library for a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Woodstock. In the summer of 1969, 400,000 people from across the country came together and redefined the music scene forever. Though the legacy and lore of Woodstock lives on in the memories of its attendees, a new generation can experience the festival through the photos and interviews in the new book, Pilgrims of Woodstock. Author John Kane will present a multimedia, interactive talk about the book. The 90-minute presentation will feature never-before-seen photos, interviews with attendees, a reading, and Q&A with the author. This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required as space is limited. Please call the library at (401) 377-2770 to sign up.
A Taste of Summer at Saltwater Farm Vineyard
Thursday, July 25, 5-7 PM
This is a great opportunity to visit part of the Connecticut Wine Trail right in our own backyard. The Saltwater Farm Vineyard at 349 Elm St., Stonington CT, is the site for a wine tasting fundraiser for the AFL. For $15 you will enjoy four different wines in a beautiful setting with music by Brad Bensko. Freshly shucked oysters, cheese, crackers, and other nibbles will be available for purchase. Picnics are encouraged! As a bonus, your entrance fee will include a raffle ticket for a gift certificate to one of the areas best restaurants. This is a rain or shine event as there is space to shelter from the weather if necessary. You can pay in advance at the Library or pay at the door. Join us for a lovely late afternoon.

Agatha Christie Talk and Birthday Celebration
Saturday September 14, 2 PM
Celebrate the Queen of Crime's birthday at the AFL with Agatha Christie fan and expert Carol Fortier. You'll see a slide lecture about Christie's life and work, followed by refreshments featuring Death by Chocolate cake! Agatha's favorite food, Devonshire cream, may even make an appearance.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Apollo 11 Film Showing and Open House
for the 50th Anniversary of the First Moon Landing, July 20, 10am to 12PM
Film is 93 minutes long and starts at 10:30. Rated G. "Crafted from a newly discovered trove of film, and more than 11,000 hours of uncatalogued audio recordings, Apollo 11 takes us straight to the heart of NASA's most celebrated mission—the one that first put men on the moon, and forever made Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin into household names. Immersed in the perspectives of the astronauts, the team in Mission Control, and the millions of spectators on the ground, we vividly experience those momentous days and hours in 1969 when humankind took a giant leap into the future." (description from the film's Web site)Light refreshments including special-edition commemorative Marshmallow Moon Oreos will be served. No registration required. REMEMBER THE AFL IS AIR CONDITIONED!

Breaking Cat News Cartoonist Visits the AFL
Tuesday, July 30, 4:30 PM
You may have seen some local publicity about this local who made it big time. Popular cartoonist Georgia Dunn is a graduate of Chariho and URI who created a wildly popular syndicated comic strip based on her cats Elvis, Puck and Lupin. Non-felines the Woman, the Man, the Toddler, and the Baby are also featured in these mini stories featuring themes of friendship and adventure. This great opportunity to meet this talented and creative cartoonist is for all ages, cat lovers and cartoon lovers alike.

Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, August 28, 6PM

Join us for this sweet celebration of summer’s end. Lots of ice cream and lots of toppings! Free! Everyone welcome!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Summer Reading Program:
A Universe of Stories

Look at all the bookmarks made by Ashaway Elementary School children to help promote summer reading!

It's not too late to join the program for summer readers! Kids read up to 8 books and earn prizes for each one by writing a sentence and/or drawing a picture about each book. You can find all the Rhode Island Children’s Book Award 2019 nominees and the Rhode Island Middle School Book Award 2019 nominees at the AFL. If a title is not on the shelf please place a hold on it. Special events associated with the theme are free to everyone whether or not you are enrolled in the Summer Reading Program.

Galaxy Slime Craft Program for Kids
Monday, July 22, 2 PM

Ages 7 and up; younger kids can participate with the help of an adult. Space is limited; registration is required.

Make Galaxy in a Bottle Necklaces!
Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 5 PM – 6 PM
Come make some space themed necklaces. Registration is required for this program and there is a limit of 15. Ages 7 and up. Younger kids are welcome with adult help. Call or stop by the library to sign-up.

**Intergalactic STEAM Space Station**
Friday, July 26, 2 PM
An “out of this world” STEAM experience for participants with 6 space stations that include coding an alien robot, engineering a space landing shuttle, and completing a circuit to light up the moon. Ages 5-10. Registration is required due to limited space.

**Back to Hogwarts Harry Potter Party**
Saturday, August 31, 2 PM
Ages 7+. Registration is required.
Come get ready to head back to Hogwarts! Stop at the Ashaway Free Library on your way to Platform 9 ¾. Our librarian professors will teach classes in herbology, potions, care of magical creatures, and more! And we’ll have some back-to-school snacks and butterbeer in the Great Hall. Feel free to wear your Hogwarts uniform, but Muggle clothes are great, too!

**The May Book/Plant/Bake Sale**
Thank you to everyone who made this arduous annual event a big success: all book donors, booksorters par excellence Barbara Capalbo and Betsy Mercer; gardeners Cyndi Fackler, Linda Sardone, Lorna Caulfield and Sharon Bridge; plant donors Maureen Bjorkland, Pen Martin, Carrie McKiel, Nancy Wojak, Catherine Gray, Prudy Patnoad, Crystal DeSoto; bakers of goodies Ann Mason, Joanna Roever, Donna Bailey, Donna Linsky, Betsy Mercer, Jill Rapoza, Sally Tucker, Peggy Sammataro, Barbara Miller, Marge Fusaro; hot dog chef Dave Smith; movers and shakers Kat Felkner, Bret Meisenheimer, Don Kinney, Boy Scouts and Scout leaders, members of the Board of Trustees and their partners who did a little bit of everything; Breakfast Pizza baker Kim Stack; and Amy Babcock for keyboard music for our Community Room opening festivities. There were so many people pitching in to make this major fundraiser a success that we may have missed a name or two. Please know we are grateful for your help! It was great to see piles of books and plants go off in happy hands and to meet and greet our neighbors after a long winter and a cold and wet spring.

**Rumors are True:**
There Were Alien Potatoes at the
**AFL Last May**

To go with the "A Universe of Stories" theme for summer reading, and in conjunction with the Ashaway Elementary School "No Time for TV Week" lots of children decorated potatoes to look like aliens and had an out of this world time doing it. Pictured in their alien mode are AFL director Heather Field, staff librarian Cheryl Baker, and Ashaway Elementary School librarian Karen Mann.

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**How to Make the Most of a Small Village Library**

Our village library is unique. It doesn't look or feel like other libraries in the state. It's small but powerful and is not bound by four walls. And it gets better every year.

Some libraries have the resources, space, time and skill to produce a browser's paradise. I used to believe these were the only good libraries. But then I widened my horizons. Living in the village of Ashaway I discovered a lovely historic building on a residential street with easy parking. Library staff greet you when you arrive and often know you by name. There are three computer stations and a laptop for your use. You can browse the stacks without getting lost or check out the new books section. Your children and grandchildren will be right at home in their own special corner. There's even a comfortable and quiet community room where you can work at a table or relax in a comfortable armchair and chat with other patrons. And local interests inform programs for kids and adults.

**Browsing in a Small Library**

I am not cured of browsing and still enjoy it when there's an opportunity. In the southern part of the state we are lucky to have several unique libraries nearby and it's fun to drop in and see what they have on offer. Langworthy, Westerly, Clark, and Cross Mills are all nearby. But there's

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**Beyond Browsing**

- Look at reviews in newspapers and magazines and check to see if favorite authors have something new.
- The has copies of *Book Page*, a newsy monthly publication that recommends and reviews books and is available for you to take home.
- Ask friends what they've been reading or check out reader's reviews on Amazon.
- Look online at NPR's book recommendations and other "best books" lists.

Always have a list of books you'd like to read someday and regularly request them online through the Interlibrary Loan. With 73 libraries in the Rhode Island, just about anything is available. Then an email or a phone call within a couple days tells you they're ready to pick up right here in Ashaway. If the title you're looking for has a long waiting list, add your name to it and be
good browsing right here at the AFL.
- A unique browsing feature is the changing staff selection at the Circulation Desk. This is a creatively curated bunch of books with a theme.
- Go to a section of the Library you haven't visited recently. Read the book jacket cover. Read the first and last page. Does the writing style appeal; is the setting interesting, the plot intriguing?
- Don't assume that a good read has to be fiction. There are many compelling non-fiction page-turners like Laura Hillenbrand's "Unbroken". For a different look at the world, try something by an author from another country like the Australian Tim Winton or the Norwegian mystery writer Jo Nesbo or look for an accessible poet like Billy Collins or Galway Kinnell.

If you've never used the Interlibrary Loan or don't have a computer, no problem! There's a computer right on the Circulation Desk to help you find your book, but even better, there's a librarian at the Circulation Desk who can make the request for you or show you how to do it. Once you've done it a couple times it's a piece of cake! In my mind, the Ashaway Free Library is a cozy local spot with resources that extend to the edges of the state and beyond.

And why not share the wealth? If you loved a book, how about leaving a Note to Readers on the bulletin board with the name, author and a word or two about why you loved it.

And that's how we can make the most of the treasure that is our small village library.
--Editor

Numbers, Numbers, Numbers
Are you part of the in-crowd? Does your library card number begin with 25988? If it does, you are officially an Ashaway Free Library patron. If not, a librarian will be happy to give you a new card. It's helpful to have AFL official patron numbers reflect our actual library users.

Smile.Amazon.com
If you're an Amazon shopper, remember to log on at https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0274531
Selecting the Ashaway Free Library as your charitable choice generates a small contribution to the Library with every purchase you make. All products, prices, procedures and wish lists stay the same and it's an easy way to support your village library.

This Issue's Library Quote: "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."
--Sidney Sheldon

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