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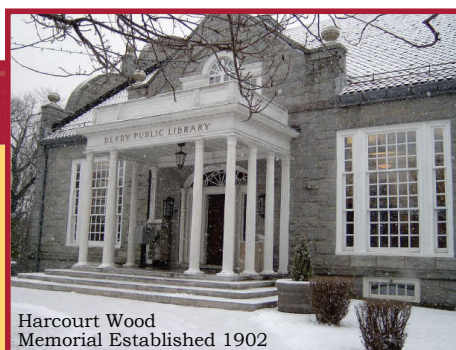


Family Place Library
Network Member

HOURS:

MON.-WED. 9 AM-8 PM
THURS. 9 AM-6 PM
FRI. 9 AM-5 PM
SAT. 9 AM-2 PM

Library Trivia: ♦The sundial on the lawn by the front entrance to the Derby Public Library has an inscription on top that says, "Count None But Sunny Hours." Before it was a sundial, it served as a millstone for grinding grain for colonial Derbyites.



Harcourt Wood
Memorial Established 1902



New for 2016!

**Color Club for Adults
& Tuesday Morning
Movie
Classics!**



DERBY Public Library

LOCAL HISTORY

Mary A. Bisaccia

Skating and sledding have always been popular winter activities in the Valley. Before the land was developed into urban landscape we have today, there were scores of skating ponds and hills for sledding. Back in the early 1900s, sledding was more commonly called "coasting," and even on a Monday night, *The Evening Sentinel** reported on February 10, 1908, hundreds of people were out coasting. At the same time, the Housatonic River was frozen all the way down to the Washington Bridge, (today's Route 1 between Stratford and Milford), for the first time in three years, and some people skated all the way from Derby and Shelton to Stratford and back.

Another winter activity that was popular and is now rarely seen is sleighing. In early February 1908, many sleighs were observed on the streets. In 1909, many sleighing parties went to the Oxford House and White Hills. In January of 1910, a sleigh party of school children from Seymour came as far as Oxford Center, all of the children excited and happy. In February that same year, "the sleighing", especially in the country, was very good, the snow being packed hard and smooth. By the 1930s, automobiles ruled the road, but farmers who still had horse drawn sleighs and teams were renting them out almost continuously. The old sleighs could hold 18 to 25 people!

Skating used to be a favored activity until around the 1970s. Maybe winters are warmer now, and landowners are more concerned about their liability, but outside skating is a sport that few in the area now engage in. One of the ponds still available for skating on today is Pickett's Pond in Osbornedale State Park. Most recent winters were marked by "ice unsafe" signs at the park. Compare this to Hoadley's Pond in Seymour in 1931, when over 500 people were seen skating one early January night. Many skated on Lake Housatonic, especially when they were able to go all the way down the river. Another skating spot in Derby was the Derby Reservoir near what is now Witek Park. In the 1950s, the Paugassett Hook and Ladder Company provided lighting to over 200 people skating on Charlie's Pond, off New Haven Avenue near Sodom Lane in Derby. In the 1900s, there was also a rink off of Seymour Avenue that was considered very safe.

There were also favorite sledding spots, sometimes drawing hundreds of "coasters." Osbornedale offered a number of steep hills. Many people, however, preferred steep city streets, which was dangerous except when supervised by local police. North Avenue in Derby was one such supervised street. Fifth Street between Minerva and Caroline Streets, as well as Seventh Street were others. In 1956, Mayor Dirienzo helped supervise sledding down Eighth Street hill.

Despite efforts of municipalities to keep sledding safe, there were inevitable accidents. "Double ripper" sleds, made of two sleds back to back with a board down the middle, were especially dangerous. In Derby in 1910, a 22 year old was injured when his double ripper hits a telegraph pole on Housatonic Avenue after he slid down the hill from Hawthorne Avenue through Camptown. There are many other cases of stitches and broken bones from sledding accidents, many involving parked cars.

Sledding in 2016 is generally a safer endeavor. Most people stay off the streets and sled down hills in parks and on private property. Sleds are often inflatable or soft plastic, and some sledders even wear helmets on their ride. Whether we're competing for more ice and snow, or with the mesmeric pull of indoor activities like video games, winter sports seem to be less popular today than they used to be.

* Source: *On This Day in History* by Rob Novak

Last year's
adult winter reading
members celebrate
their love
of reading.



From the Desk of the Director:

Cathy Williams

Every day may not be good, but there's something good in every day.

--Anonymous

Happy 2016! I hope the New Year brings everyone new people to meet, new adventures to enjoy, and new cherished memories to create.

Last year ended with some wonderful news for the Library and the community. The Connecticut State Library Board awarded the Derby Public Library a Construction Grant in the amount of \$100,000! These funds will be used for exterior repairs of our beautiful and historic building. The hard work of two individuals needs to be recognized in getting this project started. Many thanks to Patty Finn, City of Derby Deputy Director of the Office of Economic and Community Development for her wonderful grant writing skills. Many thanks also to long time Library Board member, Charles M. Stankye, Jr. Mr. Stankye had been spear heading this project at the time of his passing earlier in the year. It is in the spirit of his dedication and leadership that this project will be completed. Work will begin in the summer.

Once again, a new year brings new programs to the Derby Public Library! While our weekly *Wednesday Movie Matinees*, showing newly released movies, remains popular, we have also received some requests to show movie classics. So beginning January 5 at 10:00 AM, we will begin our new weekly *Tuesday Morning Donuts and Classics* series. A listing of scheduled movies will be posted at the Library. Suggestions are also welcomed.

A new monthly *Color Club* for adults ages 18 and over will begin on January 11 at 6:30 PM. As you have probably heard, coloring is not just for kids anymore! This simple activity provides social, mental health, and creative benefits. Relaxing music and snacks are included. No specific skills or preparation needed, just a desire to relax and de-stress. After this initial meeting, the club will begin meeting on the first Monday of each month.

Our *Annual Winter Reading Club for Adults* will begin on January 4 and run through March 4. This year's theme is "Snow" *Bound for Books*. There will be participation prizes, a "Spring Thaw" celebration, and a grand prize raffle. Readers may share books read by either submitting traditional written forms or by going online and using the LitKeeper software found on our website.

Two programs of special note have been scheduled for February. On February 22 at 6:30 PM, *The Bear Facts: Black Bears in Connecticut* will be presented by Paul Colburn, certified Master Wildlife Conservationist. The increased sighting of black bears in our neighborhoods makes this a most timely presentation. And then on February 29 at 6:30 PM, Betty Johnson from Bigelow Tea will present *The History and Health Benefits of Tea*. For three generations, Bigelow has stood the test of "tea time". Come and learn how their first tea, Constant Comment, was named and why it is still the number one selling tea in the country today. Tea samples will be distributed.

I am also happy to report that Stacey Ference returns to the Library with another great cooking demo, this time concentrating on *Healthier Comfort Foods*. Rich DiCarlo, also returns with another one of his popular *Water Color Painting* classes. Both of these events fill up quickly so be sure to register early! Be sure to check the inside calendar for all Library events. See you soon!



January 2016



Reoccurring Programs in January

Registration is requested for all programs. **Local History Info Sessions, Resume "Right-ing", Sports Talk & Tech Time** are on a drop-in basis.

MONDAYS:

1/4, 1/11, 1/25 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm **Teen Chess Club** (ages 12-17). All levels invited to learn & improve strategy with Mr. Julio Maldonado.

TUESDAYS:

1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26 10:00 am  **Tuesday Morning Donuts & Movie Classics** (18+). New weekly series. A listing of scheduled movies will be posted at the Library. A popular movie classic will be shown each week & donuts will be provided.

1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm **Local History Info Session**. January's topic: *Freshets and Their Impact on Derby History*. Research assistance will also be available on topics such as genealogy, prominent local figures & more.

WEDNESDAYS:

1/6 6:30 pm **Resume "Right-ing"** session. Participants can either start from scratch or bring copies of their existing resumes and cover letters for review and optimizing.

1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27 10:00 am - Noon **Local History Info Session**. January's topic: *Freshets and Their Impact on Derby History*. Research assistance will also be available on topics such as genealogy, prominent local figures & more.



1:00 pm **Wednesday Movie Matinees** (18+). Newly released DVDs will be shown and light snacks provided.

1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm **YA Wednesdays** (ages 12-17). Nintendo Wii, board games, and Lego.



1/13, 1/20, 1/27 10:00 am **Baby Steps** (birth to 24 mo.). Opportunity for a parent/caregiver to bond with their young child through interactive play. Older siblings are welcome to join us.

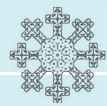
1/20 6:30 pm **Tech Time: Bring Your Tech-Related Questions!**

1/27 12:30 pm **Lunchtime Book Discussion**, *A Sudden Light* by Garth Stein. Garth will join the group discussion via Skype. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverage provided.

THURSDAYS:

1/14, 1/21, 1/28 10:00 am  **Time for Twos** (24-36 mo.) Stories, songs, finger plays and a simple craft for toddler and parent(s). Caregivers welcome.

1/21 10:00 am **Tech Time: Bring Your Tech-Related Questions!**



FRIDAYS:

1/15, 1/22, 1/29 10:00 am **Preschool Story Time** (ages 3-6). Join us for stories, songs, instruments, literacy games and a craft. Children are encouraged to attend this story time independently while a caregiver remains in the Children's Room area.

Stacey Ference continues her Cooking Demos.



Two popular programs continue in 2016!

Rich DiCarlo returns with Adult Water Color Painting classes.



January 1 & 2 - Closed in Observance of New Years Day
January 18 - Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Special Events

(Registration is requested for all Special Events.)

	1/4-3/4	Winter Reading Club for Adults (18+) "Snow" Bound for Books . Read books of your choice, fill out a brief questionnaire to share with fellow readers. Weekly raffles and a "spring thaw" celebration 3/7/16.
9-SATURDAY:	11:00 am	Let's Craft (ages 9-14). Bring in an item of clothing to refashion. Materials supplied.
11-MONDAY:	6:30 pm	Color Club for Adults (18+). Join the color craze! Materials provided. Come relax and de-stress.
15-FRIDAY:	10:00 am - Noon	American Job Search Career Coach presents <i>Using Social Network in Your Job Search</i> .
	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	The workshop is free & open to the public. Learn how to job search by creating connections on-line.
19-TUESDAY:	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Teen Maker Space/Spiderbots (ages 12-17). Make your own to bring home!.
21-THURSDAY:	3:30 pm	Lego Time (ages 4-11). All level of building skills invited. Materials supplied.
25-MONDAY:	6:30 pm	Cooking Demo: Healthier Comfort Foods (18+) cooking demo presented by Stacey Ference.
26-TUESDAY:	4:00 pm	After School STEAM Program (grs. 2-5) presented by The Science Lab: Winter Water .



February 2016



Reoccurring Programs in February

Registration is requested for all programs. **Local History Info Sessions**, **Resume "Right-ing"**, **Sports Talk & Tech Time** are on a drop-in basis.

MONDAYS:

2/1, 2/8, 2/22 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm **Teen Chess Club** (ages 12-17). All levels invited to learn & improve strategy with Mr. Julio Maldonado
2/29.
2/1 6:30 pm **Color Club for Adults** (18+). Relax with music & light snacks. Materials provided. Come de-stress!

TUESDAYS:

2/2, 2/9, 10:00 am **Tuesday Morning Donuts & Movie Classics** (18+). New weekly series. A listing of scheduled movies will be posted at the Library. A popular movie classic will be shown each week & donuts will be provided.
2/16, 2/23
2/2, 2/9, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm **Local History Info Session**. February's topic: *Ebenezer Bassett, First African American Diplomat*
2/16, 2/23 Research assistance will also be available on topics such as genealogy, prominent local figures & more.

WEDNESDAYS:

2/3 6:30 pm **Resume "Right-ing"** session. Participants can either start from scratch or bring copies of their existing resumes and cover letters for review and optimizing
2/3, 2/10, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm **YA Wednesdays** (ages 12-17). Nintendo Wii, board games and Lego.
2/17, 2/24
2/3, 2/10, 10:00 am **Baby Steps** (birth to 24 mo.). Opportunity for a parent/caregiver to bond with their young child through interactive play. Older siblings are welcome to join us.
2/17, 2/24
2/3, 2/10, 10:00 am - Noon **Local History Info Session**. February's topic: *Ebenezer Bassett, First African American Diplomat*
2/17, 2/24 Research assistance will also be available on topics such as genealogy, prominent local figures & more.
1:00 pm **Wednesday Movie Matinees** (18+). Newly released DVDs will be shown and light snacks provided.
2/24 12:30 pm **Lunchtime Book Discussion**, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. Multiple copies of the book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverage provided.
2/17 6:30 pm **Tech Time: Bring Your Tech-Related Questions!**

THURSDAYS:

2/4, 2/11, 10:00 am **Time for Twos** (24-36 mo.) Stories, songs, finger plays and a simple craft for toddler and parent(s).
2/18, 2/25 Caregivers welcome.
2/18 10:00 am **Tech Time: Bring Your Tech-Related Questions!**

FRIDAYS:

2/5, 2/12, 10:00 am **Preschool Story Time** (ages 3-6). Join us for stories, songs, instruments, literacy games and a craft. Children
2/19, 2/26 are encouraged to attend this story time independently while a caregiver remains in the Children's Room area.



The History &
Health Benefits of Tea
presented by Bigelow Tea



STEAM programs
for children also
continue this year!



February 15 - Closed in
Observance of Presidents' Day

Special Events

(Registration is requested for all Special Events.)

Winter Reading Club for Adults (18+) **"Snow" Bound for Books continues.**

4-THURSDAY: 10:00 am **Hot Stove Roundup Session of Sports Talk Series** w/Rich Marazzi. 11th Season starts in April!
6-SATURDAY: 11:00 am **Take Your Child to the Library Day at Derby Public Library** - raffle, refreshments and more!
12:30 pm **Thumbbody Loves You** (ages 4-11) presented by Evie North. Valentine's Day craft.

8-TUESDAY: 6:00 pm **Lego Time** (ages 4-11). All level of building skills invited. Materials supplied.
12-FRIDAY: Noon **Water Color Painting Workshop** (18+) with Rich DiCarlo. Learn the ins & outs of water color painting.

16-TUESDAY: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm **Stories and Lunch** (ages 4-9). Bring a bag lunch, listen to stories & decorate Valentine's Day sweets.
18-THURSDAY: 3:30 pm **Teen Maker Space/3D Printing** (ages 12-17). Explore your creativity with 3-D printing.

19-FRIDAY: 10:00 am - Noon **Lego Time** (ages 4-11). All level of building skills invited. Materials supplied.
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm **American Job Search Career Coach** presents *Job Search Assistance*.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Learn where to look for jobs and how to search on-line.
22-MONDAY: 6:30 pm **The Bear Facts: Black Bears in CT** presented by Paul Colburn, Master Wildlife Conservationist.

23-TUESDAY: 4:00 pm **After School STEAM Program** (grs. 2-5) presented by **The Science Lab: Chromatography Garden.**
29-MONDAY: 6:30 pm **The History & Health Benefits of Tea presented by Bigelow Tea** (18+).

Message from Miss Sue

Sue Sherman

In our continued effort to engage young minds and foster early literacy, we are introducing *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*. This literacy initiative, designed for children prior to the start of school, can be achieved over a period of years or months, depending upon when you decide to start. The concept of the program is to build a foundation for language and early literacy skills by reading aloud to your young child, which in turn will lead to success in school. It may sound like an overwhelming number of books to be read, but when put into perspective, if you read one book a day with your child for 3 years, you will have achieved this goal. One of the best features is that it can be done at your own pace. Community school readiness classes along with libraries throughout the country are promoting *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*.

We encourage families with children as young as toddler age, to stop by the Children's Room to register and pick up their reading journal sheets. At various increments of number of books read, participants will receive an incentive, along with acknowledgement on our display board. Once again, the only time frame involved is to reach the 1,000 books prior to kindergarten. This is a wonderful opportunity to be actively involved in your child's literacy and language development simply by reading aloud to them. Let's make reading an enjoyable experience from the start!

It is hard to believe we will be celebrating the 5th annual **Take Your Child to the Library Day** on Saturday, February 6. For anyone who is unfamiliar with this now nationwide day of



Any time is a good time to take your child to the Library!

recognizing libraries, it began as a collaborative effort by Children's Librarians in CT to encourage families to stop by and discover all the resources and opportunities their local library offers. Families are welcome to join in several activities throughout the day including **Thumbody Loves You** presented by Evie North, when kids will the opportunity to create greeting or note cards by using their thumb prints to make different characters. A perfect idea for Valentine's Day giving! **Lego Time** is also part of the day's lineup of events. There will also be a raffle, refreshments, a scavenger hunt and more. We hope to see everyone!

The holidays may have come and gone, but they will be long remembered here in the Children's Room

thanks to the help of some special "elves". The Irving School Student Council, along with their advisors Barbara Sobolisky and Holly Smith, spent an afternoon decorating our story time area, complete with snowflakes, garland and, of course, tree trimming. This is the fifth year the student council has contributed to making our space cheerful and bright for all our families and staff to enjoy. Looking ahead, we will be working with the members of the Student Council to coordinate a *Book Buddies* program in March, with the students reading to our younger patrons. Details will be in our next newsletter.

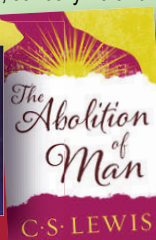
A special thank you also to Michelle Novak for assisting our young patrons in "catching" a gingerbread man cookie to decorate. Although everyone enjoyed listening to stories, the best part of the family holiday program was eating the cookies they created.

Just a reminder. . . our winter story time session begins on Wednesday, January 13 and runs through Friday, March 18. We will also continue to offer our after school **STEAM** programs during the winter. Please check the newsletter calendar for further details.



Staff Picks

Cathy Williams	<i>The Palace of Sweets</i> by Salvatore Coppola
Sue Sherman	<i>Winter is for Snow</i> by Robert Neubecker (Children's Room)
Kathy Wilson	<i>The Girl on the Train</i> by Paula Hawkins
Ann Mirisola	<i>McKnight in Shining Armor</i> by Tami Hoag
Mary Householder	<i>Dance of the Bones</i> by J.A. Jance
Mary Bisaccia	<i>At Water's Edge</i> by Sara Gruen
Lorraine Piazza	<i>The Rogue's Return</i> by Jo Beverley
Gabriella Novak	<i>Jack Frost</i> by William Joyce (Children's Room)
Tony Delos	<i>Golden Boy</i> by Tara Sullivan (Young Adult)
Brian Karkut	<i>First Night</i> by Harriet Ziefert (Children's Room)
Marc Weissman	<i>Pocket Billiards, Tips and Trick Shots</i> by Steve Mizerak
Andrew Bisaccia	<i>The Abolition of Man</i> by C.S. Lewis



TEEN ZONE

Tony DeLos



YA Wednesdays aren't just for video games --- Scrabble anyone?

Greetings Teen Zone fans and Happy New Year! With the recent holiday hullabaloo now a happy memory, we should refocus attention on enhancing our futures, the immediate as well as long term. It's never too soon to start envisioning where you see yourself in five or even ten years. And although there are those fortunate-few gifted

teens who early-on recognize their career aspirations and proclivities for rewarding pursuits, folks of all ages frequently find themselves challenged with identifying their innate aptitudes and talents. Many may even miss opportunities to cultivate personal prospects for life-long gratification. But as always, the Teen Zone has some great news in these quests for fortuitous futures!

Let me remind you that DPL cardholders have access to lynda.com, just one of our rich selection of free information databases linked from our homepage and available 24/7. Lynda.com has resources for all ages, interests, and levels of expertise, providing thousands of online training videos and courses viewable on desktop, laptop, mobile or tablet devices. This database must be explored to be believed because once experienced, you'll understand lynda's proclamations to Turn on; log in; get smart and Your tutor is waiting.

We will actually interface with one of the subjects of this multi-faceted learning resource when the Teen Zone accesses some lynda.com video courses for an upcoming YA program - **Intro to 3-D Printing**, taking place on February 16 starting at 6:00 PM. This event is part of DPL's 2016 **Teen Makerspace** programming that begins January 19 at 6:00 PM, when 10 participants will each build and take home a mechanical, solar-powered spider! Space is limited so be sure to register ASAP!

The Teen Zone is also looking forward to a strong start of the New Year in both our **Chess Club** which meets Monday evenings starting at 6:30 PM, as well as **YA Wednesdays** every week at 6:00 PM. Bring friends, make new ones and enjoy the camaraderie and competition! See you 'round the Zone!

TECH CORNER

Marc Weissman

Expand Your World This Year

Have you ever wanted to learn a new language or perhaps even become multilingual? Well, Mango, one of the online databases available through the Library is a great place to start. This particular web-based software enables patrons from beginner to expert to use a step-by-step process to master as many as 70+ worldwide languages. For example, let's say you want to learn to speak Italian. The first thing Mango would want to know is, in what context you intend to speak it, such as conversationally, at a restaurant, etc. Regardless of the frame of reference, Mango uses audio and visual examples to help you practice communicating in a myriad of situations. In fact, using the built-in microphone found on most electronic devices these days, Mango will even compare your pronunciation side-by-side to the accepted one so you can see and hear exactly what areas of your speech are spot-on and which ones still need some fine tuning.

An excellent resource for ESL students, mobile apps are also available for Android or iPhone access. In addition, fun and specialty courses are available including Romantic, Pirate, and Medical Spanish. Mango offers not only language learning, it also offers culture learning.

Meanwhile, yet another online database available through the Library is Access World News (formerly NewsBank.) Think of this site as a plethora of local, regional, national and global news sources right at your fingertips that are not only very informative but electronically searchable. In the case of the customized New Haven Register or Connecticut Post links for example, the volume of archived information accessible at no cost to you far exceeds what's found in the online databases offered by the papers' own websites. This can be very useful when doing genealogy research, or when writing a term paper, or if you are simply trying to keep up on current events around the globe. And in that regard, many of the international newspapers available through Access World News are posted in their home language, which of course brings us back to the many benefits of Mango. Recently, Access World News added a new feature called "Find a Topic." So in addition to being able to investigate news items via particular publications, you can now search this comprehensive news database by subject matter. If you're in the market for a new job, you can search under "Jobs & Careers," for example, which contains not only job opportunity sites but also helpful ones that provide tips for writing cover letters, resumes, professional thank you notes and more. Or in the case of the "Health" category, you can find pertinent information on medical care, health and wellness, and proper nutrition. Both Mango and Access World News, along with our other online databases, can be accessed from home with a Derby Public Library simply by going to the Library website, www.derbypubliclibrary.org or from all Library PCs.