



Behind the Grin

Newsletter of the Cheshire Public Library

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Winter 2007

A "DIVINE" CHOICE FOR CHESHIRE READS

By Maria Poirier Brandriff,
Assistant Director for Programming

It's been a little more than a year since the first *Cheshire Reads: One Book, One Town* project hit the town by storm. Hundreds of town residents from teenagers to seniors read Neely Tucker's *Love in the Driest Season* and flocked to the four author appearances. Clearly, Cheshire is a town of readers with 36 book clubs and a substantial increases in the library's circulation at a time when circulation is dropping at libraries nationwide.

What to do next? The *Cheshire Reads* committee determined that in order to plan and fundraise properly, the town wide reading of one book should take place every other year. During alternate years, we would present a Connecticut Authors series. That series, completed in October and November of this year, also enjoyed great success.

In the meantime, quietly and efficiently, a Book Selection committee evolved, made up of fast and avid readers who would narrow down the choices for the next book. This committee includes Beth Shutts, reference librarian at the Cheshire Public Library, Beth Cressy, president of the Cheshire Performing and Fine Arts/Artsplace, Ann Moriarty, school archivist at the Cheshire Acad-

emy, and Richard Lau, retired veterinarian and former Board of Education chairman. Together, they read about 25 titles in consideration for *Cheshire Reads*.

There were several criteria for selection: First and foremost, the subject of the book should encourage lively discussion, it should be out in paperback, it should be suitable for a range of readers from middle school to adulthood, it should have potential for auxiliary programming and last but not least, the author should be available to visit.

The new selection, *When the Emperor*



Julie Otsuka, author of *When the Emperor Was Divine*

Was Divine by Julie Otsuka, fits all these criteria beautifully. Ms. Otsuka's debut novel is a sparely written 'prose poem' of a Japanese-American family's

experience in an internment camp in Utah during World War II. None of the characters have names; they are simply known as Mother, Father and Sister. Although it feels strange at first, it becomes clear that Otsuka's intent is to show that this could have been any family affected by war, thus providing plenty of material for discussion.

Julie Otsuka was born and raised in California. She is a graduate of Yale University and received her M.F.A. from Columbia University. She lives in New York City. Otsuka is one of the winners of the Sixth Annual Asian-American Literary Awards and was honored at the Asia Society on December 8, 2003.

Julie Otsuka's own family was in-

terned during the war. In an interview with *Asia Source*, Ms. Otsuka says: "There was always a lot of silence in my family about the internment—nobody seemed to want to talk about it. The war was something that I, too, tended to avoid in my own work. For years I wrote only comic stories, but as time went on, images of the war began to surface in my writing. So clearly the camps were something I needed to write about."

All of Cheshire will be talking about it now. Information about *Cheshire Reads* is available on www.cheshirelibrary.org.

New Sunday Showcase Series Begins

January 21 - **American World Music**
Stacy Phillips, an internationally acclaimed resonator guitarist and violin player, has performed with the top acoustic musicians the world over.

February 11 - **I Love a Piano**
Paul Bisaccia plays with energy and precision with an endearing stage presence.

March 18 - **Amore Trio**
This talented trio focuses on the classics playing violin, cello and piano.

April 15 - **CelloBop**
Gideon Freudmann, a cello innovator, has created his own style of music called CelloBop - a fusion of blues, jazz, folk and much more.

May 6 - **Funky Butt Jazz Band**
This seven piece group plays New Orleans style Jazz. Think Bourbon Street and Preservation Hall.

All programs begin at 4:00 p.m.

Funding for these programs has been provided by the Friends of the Cheshire Public Library. For further details, please call the library.

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

DROP-IN PROGRAMS - No Pre-registration needed!

MONDAY STORY TIME

3½ years old - Kindergarten
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

January 8, 22, 29

February 5, 12, 26

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Stories, fingerplays and songs

TUESDAY STORY TIME

3½ years old - Kindergarten
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

January 9, 16, 23, 30

February 6, 13, 27

March 6, 13, 20, 27

Stories, fingerplays and songs

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Ages 3 - 8 years

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesdays starting January 2

For children and parents/caregivers

Stories, fingerplays and songs

MOTHER GOOSE TIME

Ages 6 - 17 months

10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

Wednesdays

January 10, 17, 24, 31

February 7, 14

For children and parents/caregivers

Songs and fingerplays

TODDLER TIME

Ages 18 - 30 months

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

January 10, 17, 24, 31

February 7, 14, 28

March 7, 14, 21, 28

For children and parents/caregivers

Stories, songs and fingerplays

AFTER SCHOOL

STORY TIME

Ages 3 - 8

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays starting January 3

For children and parents/caregivers

Stories with a craft

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for these programs

FAMILY PLACE

Ages 1 - 3 years

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Thursdays

January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8

March 1, 8, 22, 29, April 5

Stories, toys, crafts & parent resources

FRIDAY FUN

2½ - 3½ years old

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16

March 2, 9, 23, 30, April 13

Stories, songs and a craft

ART WITH KIM

Ages 2 ½ - 5


10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Wednesdays

December 13, February 7, March 7

Stories with a craft

 Register begins December 1 for the January - February sessions of these programs and on February 1 for the March - April sessions. Registration for Children's programs must be done in-person. Cheshire residents have priority for available spaces. Most January/February programs are already filled. Please check in the Children's Room for any availability.

Funding for these programs has been provided by the Friends of the Cheshire Library

More CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

VALENTINE CRAFTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

10:30 a.m.

Ages 4 and up

Join in the fun as Kim Larkin presents this ever popular winter program. Registration begins February 1.

HOW THE WEATHER WORKS

With Meteorologist Art Horn

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Ages 7 and up

2:00 p.m.

Registration begins February 1.

KITTYCAT AND DOGGIE

Presented by the Yorick Marionette Theater

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Best suited for ages 8 and under

10:30 a.m.

The story of KittyCat and Doggie and how they run their household. Based on a traditional Czech story. After the show the children can see how the marionettes work. Registration begins February 1.

Play Board Games

Teens in grades 6 through 9 are invited to play board games and nibble snacks from 3:00 to 4:30 on Fridays Jan. 12, Feb. 23, and March 23. No registration required—just drop in!

Like to Act? Like Kids?

Join our Teen Story Troupe! The Teen Story Troupe performs once a month at AfterSchool Story-Time. The troupe rehearses from 3:00 to 4:00 and performs from 4:00 to 4:30 on Wednesdays, Jan. 24, Feb. 14, and March 28. Sign up for individual sessions at the children's information desk.

Readers Wanted for the Teen Book Board

The Teen Book Board meets for pizza and discussion once a month. Members help the teen librarian decide which books to buy for the library, contribute book reviews to the Teen Book Blog, and have the opportunity to appear on the "report from the Teen Book Board" segment of the CPL Podcast. To join the Teen Book Board, contact Sarah, the teen librarian.

Wondering what to read next?

Check out our TeenBookBlog, (<http://cpltb.wordpress.com>) where members of the Teen Book Board post book reviews.

Cheshire Public Library Podcast

The Cheshire Public Library is a teen-driven cultural magazine.

Listen!

Episodes are available on CD at the library, on the library's website, and as a free subscription from the iTunes music store.

Join us!

Contribute story ideas, songs, poems, essays, book/movie/music reviews, comic sketches, or announcements.

SOUND LIKE FUN?

For more info contact Sarah, the teen librarian: 203-272-2245 or smorgan@cheshirelibrary.org

MORE BOOKS MORE MOVIES MORE TIME!

We're making it easier for you to borrow items from the Cheshire Library. Recently, limits on some materials were dropped. Patrons may now take out as many books, videos, DVDs and music CDs as they want. Add magazines and art prints to that list now.

Holiday materials are also on the unlimited list. Previously you would have been limited to 4 items for 2 weeks. Children will be able to have more than two holiday books at home at a time. The only exceptions that may arise will be if the Children's Department sees a need to impose a limit in a certain subject area due to school projects.

Some collections are set up to move quickly and be available for as many people as possible. These will remain on the non-renewable list and include FastTrack books, videos, DVDs and museum passes. The only exception here is on multi-volume sets of videos and DVDs containing more than 3 items.

A reminder though that renewal of any item may not be possible if another patron is waiting for that item.

Interlibrary loan books follow the renewal procedures of the owning library. Some may not be eligible for renewal.

Elderly patrons do not pay fines on large print books. All others do.

Staff at the Circulation Desk are available to answer any questions you may have about these procedures.

Upcoming Adult Programs

The winter season of adult programs will start on Thursday, February 1 with a presentation by meteorologist Art Horn. Mr. Horn promises an entertaining evening about weather, with no prospects of snow!

Still in the works is a new series on staying Healthy and Fit, to be held on Thursday nights in February, March and April. The series will culminate on April 26th with an encore appearance by Will Clower, author of *The Fat Fallacy*.

Also on the agenda on March 29 is a return appearance by actress Page Hedden Wilson, who will present a one woman play about Eleanor Roosevelt.

Finally, Masonicare's *Lunch and Learn* series for seniors continues on April 12 at 11:30am with a program entitled *Why am I so Dizzy?*

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

NEEDED - NEW FRIENDS!

What, you may ask, do the Friends of the Cheshire Public Library have to do with me? Plenty! Do you enjoy attending any of the many free programs for adults and children? The Friends pay for those. Have you used the museum passes or the online book clubs on our website? The Friends pay for those. Do you enjoy any of the innovative materials and services that the library provides? Then thank the Friends, because they fund most of the training that the staff needs to develop these services. In fact, the Friends donate over \$35,000 to the library every year.

Please join the Friends and help us make our terrific library even better! Just fill out the form included with this newsletter and either mail it back or drop it off at the library. Thank you.

Deborah Wylie, Acting President
Friends of the Cheshire Public Library



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Thanks to the staff for their
many contributions

Bits 'n Pieces

- ✓ Have you checked out our downloadable audio books lately? Follow the link from our website.
- ✓ Thank you to all who brought in items for our **Mitten Tree** this year. More than 100 gifts were sent to the Human Services Department to help with their Christmas rush. The handmade items were beautiful!
- ✓ The Cheshire Town Council has approved funding for a pilot program of **Sunday hours**, between January 7 and March 25, 2007. Hours open would be 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This program is contingent upon staff availability. Please refer to the library website for updates on Sunday hours.
- ✓ Many thanks to the **Langey family** of Bellingham, Washington who made an extremely generous **donation** in honor of their parents, Ed and Jane Langey, Cheshire residents and long-time library users. They



Bits 'n Pieces

asked that the money be used to purchase fiction, history and political science.

- ✓ You may notice some **“trading spaces”** happening in the Children’s Room. In a move to increase floor space in the Preschool Area the old ‘rounders’ holding paperback books have been removed. The **paperbacks** have a new spot along the back wall. A new **“Easy Reader”** nook will be created soon.
- ✓ And thanks to the local boy scouts who volunteered their time to shift and alphabetize some of those books!



Bits 'n Pieces

ROTARY BIRTHDAY BOOKS

Howard Baldwin

How to Get Started in Northeastern Gardening

Edward Bowman

Black & Decker: The Complete Photo Guide to Home Improvement

Matthew Cassidy

*Insurance Maze
You've Got to Read this Book*

Marc Craig

*Journey into the Transcendentalists New England
President's Counselor: The Rise to Power of Alberto Gonzales*

Margaret Durlach

American Medical Association Family Medical Guide

Michael Evans

*Real Men Don't Apologize
Definitive Book of Body Language*

James Grenon

It Takes a Parent

Farshid Hakim

Operation Homecoming: Iraq, Afghanistan and the Home Front, in the Words of the U.S. Troops and Their Families

John Husic

*Night
Make the Rules or Your Rivals Will*

Leo Lavalle

*MySpace Unraveled
How Personal and Internet Safety Works*

Theodore Kraus

The Great Lakes Water Wars

Ghislaine Mahler

Transform Yourself: A Self Hypnosis Manual

James McGregor

Good Fences: A Pictorial History of New England's Stone Walls

Robert Monaco

I wish I'd been There: Twenty Historians Bring to Life Dramatic Events that Changed America