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NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

August 2009 Volume 8 Issue 8

From the Director

On July 21st, the Library began the process of transitioning to a new circulation system and library catalog. For the past nine years we've been using a system specifically designed for school libraries. It has been adequate, but with the advances in library systems, the time had come to explore other options. Library circulation systems are expensive and we faced vendor costs of \$10,000 and more.

Happily, there was another option - - an open source library database called Koha. Developed in New Zealand, Koha (which means "gift" in Maori) is now being used by hundreds of libraries the world over. There is no vendor involved. Open source means the software code is open for all to see and to tweak for their local uses. NPL is the third public library in Vermont to move to this system.

As members of the Green Mountain Library consortium, we've had access to web designers, software coders and Richard Pritsky, a librarian from the Carpenter-Carse Library in Hinesburg, which began using Koha in November of 2008. Randy Witlicki, NPL's IT guru, has also been instrumental during this transition.

Koha is highly interactive. Patrons will be able to renew and reserve items from home and create personalized emails alerting them (YOU) to upcoming due dates. The library catalog will feature book covers and hyperlinks. The staff will have more flexibility in the types of reports we can run and greater ease of downloading bibliographic information. It will also cost us much less to run.

Change is never easy and we've had some minor glitches in the first two weeks. Everyone has been very patient and we thank you. Patrons will need a username and password to access their library account. These will need to be set up with a member of the library staff. It takes less than two minutes and can be done over the phone or in person.

All of us on staff are very excited about Koha and the positive change this brings to our patrons and the Library. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 649-1184.

Rain, sun, clouds, sun, thunderstorms, sun, tornadoes, sun, hail, wind, and sun! The weather may be inconsistent but you can always count on finding a great book at NPL. Best wishes for a happy August.

Lucinda

Library News

The Friends of the Norwich Public Library extend a welcoming invite to one and all to become a member. Currently, The Friends have a quarterly book sale, a Bingo tent at The Norwich Fair in July and are launching a small gift section in the Library. New faces and ideas are welcome! Your time and energy for a worthy cause is appreciated. The Friends of NPL meets the first Saturday of every month to discuss and brainstorm money-raising events in support of the Library. The next meeting will be Saturday, September 5th at 10AM in the Community Room at the Library.

The Friends of NPL give a hearty thanks to all the volunteers who hefted and helped at the July book sale as well as those who hollered, ran and withstood wind and rain at the Bingo tent on the green for the fair. The Friends could not have done it without you!!!

NPL thanks The Friends for their dedication and hard work! They raised \$300 from Bingo and \$1500 from the sale of books. The money raised will help support the purchase of library materials.

What we are Reading

Lucinda

The Way Life Should Be by Christina Baker Kline

Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann

The Scarecrow by Michael Connolly

Lisa

Life as we knew it by Susan Beth Pfeffer

The protest singer by Alec Wilkinson

Girl with the dragon tattoo by Steig Larsson

Sag Harbor by Colson Whitehead

Beth

Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace

Liars and Saints by Maile Meloy

A Short History of Women by Kate Walbert

Stephanie

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

Callisto by Torsten Krol

The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron

Wendy

Seeking Peace by Mary Pipher

Tina

Free For All: Oddballs, Geeks and Gangstas in the Public Library
by Don Borchert

The Best American Spiritual Writing 2008

What we are Listening to

Lucinda

The Cold Sassy Tree - ODM

Beth

Eyre Affair

What we are Listening to

Stephanie

Tea Time for the Traditionally Built by Alexander McCall Smith

The Anatomy of Desire by Michael Pollan

A Prison Diary by Jeffrey Archer

The Scarecrow by Michael Connolly

Tina

The Amateur Marriage by Anne Tyler

What we are Watching

Lucinda

This American Life

Fast Times at Ridgemont High

Lisa

Frost-Nixon

Beth

Lost in Space

Birds of America

Stephanie

High Crimes

The Visitor

The Runaway Jury

Wendy

Baby Mama

Pieces of April

Pride and Prejudice

Ladies in Lavender

Tina

Man on Wire

Children's Room News

A Cartoon-tastic Adventure

Do you enjoy drawing panels and sketching action sequences inside them? Are you very familiar with the call number 741.5? Is the Graphic Novel section of the Library your favorite place to browse? Have you ever wanted to create your own book of cartoons? If you answered Yes to any of these questions, please join us on **Thursday, August 6th at 6:30PM** for a presentation by James Sturm, co-creator of the new book, "**Adventures in Cartooning.**" He'll tell us all about how this book came to be, and hopefully inspire the audience to do a little cartooning of their own. At the end of the presentation we'll give away a selection of **vintage comics**. Kids of all ages are welcome, though children 7 & under should be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited, so please call 649-1184 to reserve a spot.

Paper Beads

Join us from **10:30AM - 2:30PM on Saturday, August 8th** for an all-day **Paper Beading** event. We'll supply the paper and glue for to make enough beads for a necklace, bracelet, or hair wrap. Use our copy of "The KLUTZ Book of Paper Beads, for inspiration, or have your own vision in mind when you arrive. Either way you're welcome to spend some time here creating your masterpiece. Refreshments will be served as we wish our **Children's Room Assistant, Peggy**, well on her new adventure in Burlington.

You Can Still Be Creative and Express Yourself at the Library!

Kids, there's still time to bring in your **Summer Reading Contract** and chart your progress as you read your way to your goal. Come down to the Children's Room with your contract in hand and add one stamp to the notebook for every book you've read.

At the end of August you can bring in your contract in to be redeemed. Everyone who completes their pledge will get a certificate and a coupon from King Arthur Flour for a free cookie. All completed contracts will be entered into our **Grand Prize Drawing** for some amazingly artistic prizes. Prizes will be on display in the Front Cases during the month of August. Winners will be notified after the start of school.

This year we're trying something new: kids in 5th grade and up can write reviews and post them to **LibraryThing** to be entered into a special prize drawing. Details can be found on the Teen page of our website.

From Chasing Ray, an interview with Lewis Buzbee, author of "Steinbeck's Ghost"

CR: I can't help but think that libraries must have held (or hold) a significant place in your life. Can you explain a bit of how you personally feel about them and what place you feel they hold in communities?

LB: My memories of libraries are mostly personal ones, intimate ones. Walking into the public library near my home, spending late afternoon hours there, flitting from book to book, and then—magic of magic—taking the books home. I was only ever disappointed that I had to take the books back. I also had several librarians recommend titles to me that I still think about.

What I always have loved about librarians is that they take each of their readers seriously, as individuals with interests that need to be addressed. Money, class, appearance, cool-factor, none of that really matters in a library. Everyone has the same library card; there's no platinum version. In that sense—and in many others—libraries are exceedingly democratic.

And of course, they're free. What an amazing idea. When we look back and see how information has been controlled over centuries, and how that control has conferred power to the few, it's quite stunning to come upon a public library.



NPL Calendar

Art Exhibit ~ "Painting Nevis" runs through August 31st. The exhibit displays pastels, watercolor and oil paintings by area artists created during visits to the Caribbean Island Nevis. Featured artists are Martha Drake, Nancy Gerlach, Debbie Hamilton, Owen Hamilton, Claude Janeway, Kate More, Mary Luckey, Anne Rose, Jonathan Rose, Cary Rothe & Joe Saginor.

Display Cases ~

Left side exhibit case – Enjoy a sampling of treasures from a Norwich Historical Society's collection spanning 200 years of Norwich history. The earliest in the case is a 1769 sampler and the latest is a 1977 Dewees Cochran doll.

Right side exhibit case – Calling all kids, **September 1st** is the last day to turn in your completed Summer Reading Contract. Everyone receives: A coupon for a cookie at King Arthur and a certificate of completion. You will then be entered into the Grand Prize Drawing.

Prizes include:

1. *Angelina Ballerina board book set*
2. *An Artists America, Andy Warhol and Edward Hopper (3 books)*
3. *Handel Who Knew What He Liked and Bad Rats with CD (2 books)*
4. *Mystery of the Third Lucretia and paint set*
5. *The Calder Game and Pentomino set*
6. *Ms. McCaw Liked to Draw, journal and pencil set*
7. *All Shook Up and tote bag*
8. *Rits and Praxinoscope*
9. *The Art of Freedom, journal and pencil set*
10. *Forever Young and Sing My Song (2 books)*

Winners will be notified by phone after September 8th.

Children's Events Calendar

Word Play

Stories, songs, rhymes & fingerplay for kids 0-3 & their caregivers.

Wednesdays 10:30-11:00AM

August 5 Scribble it!

August 12 Up On Stage

August 19 PLAYGROUP ONLY

August 26 PLAYGROUP ONLY

Lunch at the Library

Stories and songs for kids 3-8 and their caregivers on Fridays **11:30-12:15**

Bring a lunch & make a craft! **(Please note the time change.)**

August 7 What's that Squiggle?

August 14 Special Guest: Ellie Tetrick

August 21 PLAYGROUP ONLY

August 28 PLAYGROUP ONLY

Due Dates

~ 4 weeks for many items

~ 2 weeks for new items with red dot, CDs, Interlibrary Loans, and magazines

~ 1 week for videos and DVDs & Discovery Packs

Fines

~ 5¢ per day for most items

~ 50¢ per day for videos, DVDs, Discovery Packs & Interlibrary Loans

Bookmark & New Acquisitions

Visit our website at www.norwichlibrary.org to read the current issue of *Bookmark* and see our new acquisitions. If you would like to receive email updates on Library events and programs, sign up electronically on the homepage of our website, or send an email request to:

circulation.desk@norwichlibrary.org.

Norwich Public Library

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802-649-1184

www.norwichlibrary.org

<http://nplnow.blogspot.com>

circulation.desk@norwichlibrary.org

Hours

Monday 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Tuesday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Wednesday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staff

Lucinda Walker

Director

Lisa Milchman

Assistant Librarian

Beth Reynolds

Children's Librarian

Tina Avery

Cataloger

Wendy Forrester

Program/Publicity Coordinator

Peggy Ramel

Library Assistant

Stephanie Smith

Library Assistant