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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

VOL. 8 ISSUE 1

January



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February



- 1** TUESDAY
CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEARS HOLIDAY.
- 2** WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Teen Game Night** (Young Adults ages 11-17).
- 3** THURSDAY
10:30 a.m. **Worlds of Fantasy** (ages 4-8). Registration requested.
- 7** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 11-17). Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. **A Taste of Chinese Traditional Culture.** Registration requested.*
Winter Reading Club for Adults begins. Registration requested.*
- 8** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Social Security Information Specialist.** Walk-in basis.
3:45 p.m. **Lego Time** (ages 4-11). Registration requested.
- 9** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
- 10** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*
- 11** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Terrific Three's** (age 3). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (ages 4-6). Registration requested.*
- 14** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 11-17). Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. **President's Special** w/Rob Novak. Registration requested.*
- 15** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
3:45 p.m. **After School Yoga Program** (ages 5-11). Registration req.*
- 16** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 17** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*
- 18** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Terrific Three's** (age 3). Registration requested.*
10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **CT Works Career Coach** presents **Job Search Assistance.** Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (ages 4-6). Registration requested.*
- 19** SATURDAY
11:00 a.m. **Read to Sandy Birthday Celebration** (ages 5-11). Reg. req.*
12:30 p.m. **Lego Time** (ages 4-11). Registration requested.*
- 21** MONDAY
CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.
- 22** TUESDAY
6:30 p.m. **Read to Payson** (ages 5-11). Registration requested.
- 23** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
12:30 p.m. **Lunchtime Book Discussion, *Defending Jacob.*** Reg. req.*
- 24** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*
- 25** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Terrific Three's** (age 3). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (ages 4-6). Registration requested.*
- 28** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 11-17). Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Cooking Demo: Comfort Foods** (ages 18+) Registration req.*
- 29** TUESDAY
3:45 p.m. **After School Program, Crafty Kids** (gr. K-3). Reg. requested.*
- 30** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Teen Movie Night** (ages 11-17). Reg. required.*
- 31** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*

- 1** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Terrific Three's** (age 3). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (ages 4-6). Registration requested.*
- 2** SATURDAY
Take Your Child to the Library Day Celebration
10:00 a.m. **Read to Sandy** (ages 5-11). Registration requested.*
11:00 Tai Chi (ages 4-11). Registration requested.*
Noon -1:30 p.m. **Lego Time** (ages 4-11). Registration requested.*
- 4** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 11-17). Registration req.*
6:30 p.m. **Gentle Yoga Dance Class** w/Andrea Cashman (adults) Reg. req.*
- 6** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Teen Game Night** (Young Adults ages 11-17).
- 7** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
10:00 a.m. **Hot Stove Roundup Session/Sports Talk.**
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*
- 8** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Terrific Three's** (age 3). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (ages 4-6). Registration requested.*
- 11** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. requested.*
5:30 p.m. **Valentine Movie Night** (ages 18+). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 11-17). Registration req.*
- 12** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Social Security Information Specialist.** Walk-in basis.
3:45 p.m. **Valentine's Day Program** (gr. K-3). Registration requested.*
- 13** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Woman's Financial Makeover Night.** Registration requested.*
- 14** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*
- 15** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Terrific Three's** (age 3). Registration requested.*
10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **CT Works Career Coach** presents **Job Search Assistance.** Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (ages 4-6). Registration requested.*
2:00 p.m. **Bring the Hoopla** (ages 4-11). Registration requested.*
- 18** MONDAY
CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY.
- 19** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Read to Sandy** (ages 5-11). Registration req.*
- 20** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
3:45 p.m. **Lego Time** (ages 4-11). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 21** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*
3:45 p.m. **After School Yoga Class** (ages 5-11). Registration requested.*
- 22** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Terrific Three's** (age 3). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** (ages 4-6). Registration requested.*
- 25** MONDAY
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Family Place Parent/Child Wkshp.** Reg. requested.*
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Mission Possible: College Fair.**
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 11-17). Registration req.*
- 27** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Baby and Me** (ages 6-12 mos.) Registration requested.*
12:30 p.m. **Lunchtime Book Discussion, Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale.** Registration requested.*
5:00 **YA Movie Night** (ages 11-17). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 28** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Nursery Rhyme Time** (12-24 mos.). Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. **Time for Two's** (25-35 mos.). Registration requested.*

*For more information call (203) 736-1482 or go to www.derbypubliclibrary.org and click on EventKeeper.

Social Security Information Sessions
 Tuesday, January 8 &
 Tuesday, February 12, 10:00 am

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Cathy Williams

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

— Leo Buscaglia

I am happy to say that there are once again several people to thank for their recent thoughtfulness and generosity to the Derby Public Library. Our Annual Holiday Open House was enhanced this year by beautiful music provided by staff member Marc Weissman. Marc generously shared his time and talents with us, setting up his own keyboard and equipment in the Local History Room and playing a variety of holiday songs. Our already beautiful building, added with the holiday decorations and the melodic music, made for a very special afternoon. Thank you, Marc.

Jamie Cohen, longtime benefactor of the Derby Public Library, recently retired as President of the Valley Community Foundation. At his request, in lieu of gifts, donations were made to the Cohen Family Book Fund. This fund was set up by Jamie's mother, Jane Cohen, in 1951 in memory of his grandparents and has been continued since then in loving memory of Jamie's father and son. The fund helps the Library purchase books that it cannot otherwise afford. I have often heard Jamie say that "the Derby Public Library is in his blood." His continued support is certainly a testament to those words. Thank you, Jamie.

John Rak, local businessman and former Derby resident, was a frequent visitor to the Polish Language collection area of the Library. We had several conversations about his wife's aunt, (who the books were for), her wonderful spirit, and her love of reading. Sadly, Zofia Switala passed away on Nov. 29. The family requested that donations be made to the Derby Public Library and St. Michael's Church. Many thanks go out to the Zofia's family for this generous and thoughtful act.

With the New Year upon us, the Library Board and Staff have the same goals as in previous years - to provide quality services that are educational, recreational, and technological. We are always open to your ideas and suggestions. Please stop by the circulation desk and pick up one of our 2013 calendars. As it says, "Our service is always in season!"

As I write this column, the country is trying to deal with the recent horrific tragedy in Newtown, CT. There really are no words to describe the unimaginable pain of the families and friends directly affected. While we offer them our condolences and prayers, there must be more we can do. President Obama said that "as a nation we must do better." To do better as a nation, we must do better as individuals. My resolution for 2013 is to do better.



CT Works Career Coach

Friday, January 18
Job Search Assistance
10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
& 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Friday, February 15
Job Search Assistance
10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
& 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Mission Possible: College Fair

On Monday, February 25, 2013 the Library in partnership with regional colleges and universities will host *Mission Possible: College Fair*. The event will include representatives from various local colleges and universities who will speak to participants about the application process and the resources available to help them attain a bright future with a college education. The college fair will take place from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Library's upper level meeting room. This event will bring under one roof more than six college and university representatives who will address questions and concerns about regional higher academic institutions and will have information about the application process. Confirmed participating institutions include Albertus Magnus College, Gateway Community College, the Butler Business School/Sawyer School, Lincoln Technical Institute and more to come. Participants will have the opportunity to talk individually with each of the representatives and will also be provided with guidelines on how to apply for Financial Aid. Refreshments will be provided. Registration is requested.



STAFF BOOK PICKS

Cathy Williams	<i>Love Anthony</i> by Lisa Genova
Sue Sherman	<i>Owl's Winter Rescue</i> by Anita Loughrey (Children's Room)
Kathy Wilson	<i>Defending Jacob</i> by William Landay
Ann Mirisola	<i>Dream Lake</i> by Lisa Kleypas
Bernadette Bahner	<i>The Violinist's Thumb</i> by Sam Kean
Tony DeLos	<i>Evolution, Me and Other Freaks of Nature</i> by (Young Adult) Robin Brande
Mary Bisaccia	<i>The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane</i> by Katherine Howe
Lorraine Piazza	<i>A Different Kind of Normal</i> by Cathy Lamb
Cynthia Billingslea	<i>Mr. Tony is Full of Baloney</i> by Dan Gutman (Children's Room)
Brian Karkut	<i>Here Comes Jack Frost</i> by Kazuno Kohara (Children's Room)
Marc Weissman	<i>Imperfect: An Improbable Life</i> by Jim Abbott
Mary Householder	<i>Mad River</i> by John Sandford

Tech Corner

Bernadette Bahner



Websites and Mobile Apps to Help Keep Your New Year's Resolutions in the Palm of Your Hand.

It's that time of the year again when we all resolve to keep the resolutions we make for ourselves. The problem is that it is just really hard. Research has found that 52% of resolution makers are confident that they will reach their goals but in the end only 12% succeed. This year try and use technology to help you succeed. Here are some great apps and websites to help you reach your goal(s). The apps are all free, and are all compatible or offer downloads to all major Smartphones, iPad's, iPod's, Tablets, Android systems, PC's and Macs.

Traditionally, the most popular resolution has been to lose weight. The free app **Lose It** will help you all the way. When you enter your goal weight the app will tell you exactly how many calories you should consume each day to get to where you want to be.

The app **Food Balance** by Coconut Labs allows you to check out the calories of food before you eat something.

If you love fast food, the **Restaurant Nutrition** app by Foundation HealthCare Network offers nutritional information, calories, fat, sodium and carbohydrates for restaurant menus. There are two hundred and fifty of your favorite restaurant options.

Another popular resolution is to become more physically fit and to exercise our way to health. Fitness apps and websites function as workout guides and health resources.

Fitness Buddy: 300+ Exercises by Azumio, Inc. is great for the newcomer who wouldn't know where to start. It gives a varied weekly routine with full explanations.

Fitocracy is a free daily workout tracker and gives you access to a supportive fitness community. The app offers 800+ exercises for strength, cardio, and weight loss. It is available for download from iTunes.

Is your number one priority for 2013 to save money, pay your bills on time or to get you financial house in order? **Mint.com** by Intuit makes money management simple. The program is flexible enough to accommodate any budgeting style, from basic budgeting to investment tracking. The site offers alerts by text or email to remind you if funds are getting low, if a bill has arrived or if your interest rates have changed.

Envelope Budget (EEBA) for the web (eebacanhelp.com), android and iPhone is a must have for tight budgets. It is also known as zero-based budgeting, the Envelope Method, or the cash method. It's a flash back to days gone by of only spending what you have but now you are using virtual envelopes.

Getting organized? The app **Get Organized** from JTK Solutions is optimized for students- especially secondary and college students.

If you are the kind of person who fills notebooks with ideas and loves to write everything down on a "to-do" list, the app **Workflowy** will be perfect for you.

Did you promise yourself you would change careers or find a job? **What Color Is Your Parachute? 2013: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers** (app) is based on the world's most popular job search book. It has up to the minute information and advice for today's job hunters and career changers.

You don't need to own a Kindle device to enjoy Kindle books. The **Kindle Cloud Reader** will allow you to read books instantly in your browser. Download one of the free Kindle Apps available for every major smartphone, tablet, and computer including a Mac. You can start reading on one device, and pick up where you left off on another device as long you have downloaded the app.

Best of luck on your quest to achieve your 2013 resolution!

FREE BASIC PC CLASSES

Tuesday, January 15 - 10:00 AM
Wednesday, January 16 - 6:30 PM
Tuesday, February 19 - 10:00 AM
Wednesday, February 20 - 6:30 PM



Hot Stove Roundup Session

The Library has scheduled a Hot Stove Roundup session of its popular Sports Talk series on Thursday, February 7 at 10:00 AM. Rich Marazzi, radio sports talk host, author and MLB rules consultant and his Silver Sluggers will discuss the trades, signings and rumors of Major League Baseball's off season. As always, new members of all ages are welcome! The eighth season of the weekly Sports Talk sessions will begin in April.



A Woman's Financial Makeover Night

A Woman's Financial Makeover Night is scheduled on Wednesday, February 13 at 6:30 PM. Mary Ann Vlahac,

Marketing Coordinator for TEAM, Inc. will present this Financial Literacy and Education program. Topics covered will include: the not so secrets about paying yourself first, bad budgets are like bad boyfriends, credit works for you-not against you, and a man is not a retirement plan. Registration is requested.

Winter Reading Club for Adults Snow is Falling, Books are Calling



The Library is once again offering a Winter Reading Club for adults, ages eighteen and over. *Snow is Falling, Books are Calling*, will begin on January 7 and run through March 1. As participants read books of their choice, they will be asked to anonymously complete a very brief written questionnaire to share with fellow readers. These will be posted. Readers will receive a participation prize upon submitting their first review. Weekly raffles for winter surprise bags will be held for all participants sharing for each particular week. A "snow clearing" celebration for all club members, catered by Stacey Ference of Savour Catering, will be held on Monday, March 4 at 6:30 PM. All attendees will have a chance to win a grand prize raffle. You can register in person at the adult circulation desk or by phone.



Gentle Yoga Dance Class

Another Gentle Yoga Dance class has been scheduled on Monday, February 4 at 6:30 PM. Andrea Cashman, a Hatha Yoga instructor, returns to the Library to demonstrate this restorative, joyful movement, which combines Yoga, the breath, and dance using chairs. With global music, Andrea will guide everyone through a fun, sacred, inspirational dance of the multi-dimensional self, leading to a renewed sense of well being to the body and spirit, while honoring individual abilities and aspirations. Andrea has recently been showcased on the WTNH television show *Connecticut Styles*. Registration is requested.

Cooking Demo: Comfort Foods

A cooking demo is scheduled on Monday, January 28 at 6:30 PM. Comfort food will be the topic of the evening as Stacey Ference of Savour Catering shows participants how to make delicious pasta casseroles for those cold winter days. There will be samples of all demonstrated foods. The class is for ages eighteen years and older. Registration is required.

Valentine Movie Night

A Valentine Movie Night is scheduled on Monday, February 11 at 5:30 PM. The evening will include the showing of a film fitting for the holiday and a light dinner. Adults, ages eighteen and over are invited. Registration is required.



A Taste of Chinese Traditional Culture

The Library will host a program, *A Taste of Chinese Traditional Culture* on Monday, January 7 at 6:30 PM. The Shen Yun Performing Arts group will convey the essence and uniqueness of the traditional Chinese culture through slide and video presentations. This one hour session will also include a short Chinese dance workshop, including classical Chinese dance props along with ribbons and fans. Registration is requested.

A Message from Miss Sue

Sue Sherman

We are so appreciative of the generosity of those who volunteered in the Children's Room during the holiday season. Thank you to the Irving School Student Council along with their advisors Jo-Ann Dobek, Maria Meillilo, and Barbara Sobolisky who continued the tradition of decorating our multi-purpose room complete with snowflakes, garland and, of course, the finishing touches on our tree. The students spent time after school to help make the Children's Room a warm and inviting place for the families of our community this winter season. A special thanks to Diane Berti for all her help in preparing and facilitating several family story time events over the past few months. We look forward to having her with us throughout the new year.

We begin a new year often with thoughts of resolutions and change. The focus of many of our children's programs will be "back to basics." Triggering creativity and sparking imaginations can be achieved with some very fun and simple activities. This being said, we are hosting a series of themed **yoga classes** as part of our after school programs during January and February and a family **Tai Chi class**. If your child has a little more energy to burn, then **Bring the Hoopla** on Friday, February 15 at 2:00 PM is perfect for them.

We introduce **Lego Time** which will take place twice a month beginning on January 8 at 3:45 PM and also on Saturday, January 19 at noon. All levels of building abilities are welcome to stop by. Families with children ages 4-11 may participate. Give your child an opportunity to use some of their brain power to explore where their imagination can take them.

Families are invited to join in the activities on Saturday, February 2 when we celebrate the second annual **Take Your Child to the Library Day**. This statewide initiative is a collaborative effort by Children's Librarians, introduced last year to encourage families to visit their local library and discover all the resources and opportunities available. We begin the day with the popular reading to a therapy dog program, **Read to Sandy** at 10:00 AM. At 11:00 AM families with children ages 4-11 can participate in a **Tai Chi class**. Stop by the Children's Room at noon to find out what **Lego Time** is all about. If you or your child do not own a library card and are residents of Derby, come by the circulation desk to apply.

On Thursday, January 3 at 10:30 AM children ages 4-8 are invited to a **Fairy Tale Story Time** with guest readers from the **Disney on Ice Worlds of Fantasy Show** taking place in the area this January. Following the reading of popular Disney fairy tales, library guests will have an opportunity to visit with **Tinkerbell**. Bring your cameras along for the event!

As a reading incentive this winter, the **Bridgeport Sound Tigers** are offering every child at the Derby Public Library who reads 5 or more books 1 free ticket to attend a hockey game on March 2 or 17. Further information along with a journal sheet are available in the Children's Room.

Speaking of reading . . . sign up this winter to read to our therapy dogs. Sandy and Payson will both be visiting the Library and would love to listen to some great stories. On Saturday, January 19, we will be celebrating **Sandy's 11th birthday**. Everyone is invited to come by to offer Sandy best wishes on her special day!

Just a reminder...The winter session of **Weekly Story Times** begins on Wednesday, January 9 running through March 15. We offer story times for children ranging in age from 6 months to 6 years old. **Family Place Parent/Child Workshops** will start on Monday, January 7. For a description of these programs, please check the Library's website or contact the Children's Room. **Registration is requested for all programs.**



Lunchtime Book Discussion

Defending Jacob by William Landay

The January Lunchtime Book Discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23 at 12:30 PM. The selected title is the fast and compelling courtroom drama, *Defending Jacob* by William Landay. When a young boy is found brutally murdered in the woods in a peaceful New England town, the community is shaken to its core. No one more so than Andy Barber, a well-respected assistant district attorney whose fourteen year old son, Jacob, went to school with the boy. Then, in a stunning turn of events, Jacob is arrested for the crime. The author gives the reader the twists and turns found in the best legal thrillers while making its centerpiece the tragedy faced by a normal family who are thrust into a nightmare.

Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale by Lynda Rutledge

The Library has scheduled its February Lunchtime Book Discussion for Wednesday, February 27 at 12:30 PM. The selected title is the enchanting novel *Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale* by Lynda Rutledge. On the last day of the millennium, sassy Faith Bass Darling, the richest old lady in Bass, Texas, decides to have a garage sale. As the townspeople grab up five generations of heirlooms, everyone drawn to the sale finds that the antiques not only hold family secrets, but also inspire some of life's most imponderable questions.

Multiple copies of these books are available at the circulation desk. Participants are asked to bring a sandwich and a friend as they "chat and chew." Dessert and beverages will be provided. Registration is requested.



Local History

Mary A. Bisaccia

The Winter of 1847, as Reported By the Derby Journal

The Derby Journal was published every Thursday morning in the village of Birmingham (Derby) by Hotchkiss and Newson. Their office was over the store of Downs and Sanford. For their first issue of 1847, they printed a calendar for the year 1847 in its January 7th issue that people could cut out and hang up. In a wish for New Year's Resolutions, the Journal hoped that "accounts have been settled, books balanced, and everything started anew."

As was common at the time, Temperance Society meetings were often held and were well-attended. The New Haven County Temperance Society was to hold their regular monthly meeting in Derby, despite predictions of bad weather. A sermon was to be preached by Rev. Mr. Griggs at the Congregational Church in Derby.

Speaking of the weather, the local reports of the day were quite different from our "local eight day forecast" we have now. The Journal reported, "The weather for the past few days has been more like balmy spring than cold, chilly January. The rivers in this section are clear of ice, the snow has entirely disappeared and as we look out upon the mountain tops, they remind us that summer with its thousand charms and variegated scenery will soon come tripping and blushing along like some fair maiden, to greet us with her cheerful smiles." However, "the weather today has changed, and instead of sunshine, it indicated a rainy week."

The Journal reported on several accidents in its January 7th edition. The sloop *Commodore Jones* struck upon the "Sow and Pigs," evidently some obstacle in the Housatonic River, yesterday, where it remained until that morning when she got off without damage and proceeded on her course to New York. In Woodbridge, David Camp had been loading wood and was just in the act of "gripping" the load, when he fell from his cart, breaking one of his legs. Daniel Hawkins, employed by Hotchkiss, Clark and Company caught his hand in a buzz saw, which mutilated his fingers in such a manner as to deprive him of the use of his left hand for a time.

There was an editorial opinion piece on the importance of public schools and the need for active participation and a sufficient budget to improve the quality of local education.

The February 4th edition of The Derby Journal published two poems written expressly for The Journal, "The Dying Orphan," by "Elon" and "To Sarah," by "R."

There was a reminder that the lecture on Mnemonics, which was deferred on account of the weather, would be given in the basement of the Congregational Church at 7 o'clock Saturday evening. The lecture was free. Mnemonics is a type of learning tool that uses lists, rhymes, acronyms, etc. to enhance learning and memorization. Mnemonics is still used today.

The weather again was the big story. Heavy rain continued throughout the day on Feb. 3rd, accompanied by a violent wind from the southeast. As a



result, the waters of the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers began to swell, inundating the meadows and low lands along their banks, and threatening a very serious and extensive flood. During the afternoon, the waters of the two rivers united their forces, the wind increased, the tide began suddenly to rise, and soon the causeway connecting the village of Birmingham with Derby was overflowed and all communication between the places was cut off except by means of boats. Most of the cellars of the factories were filled with water, some of them to a depth of 3 feet.

The current of the Naugatuck River was unusually rapid. A horse that was killed by an accident in Humphreysville (Seymour) was found high and dry in Derby on the morning of Feb. 4th, having been forced downstream nearly 5 miles by the velocity of the current.

The winter flooding phenomenon was called a "water freshet," and had there been as much ice in the rivers as is usual at this season, a much more serious inundation would have taken place. The wind throughout this storm was so violent, The Journal referred to it as "a perfect hurricane."

The Journal reported that the national debt on the 30th of June, 1848, was projected to be \$75,000,000. There was no mention of a "fiscal cliff."

There were many advertisements at the end of each edition of the paper. A significant number of the advertisers were from New Haven. The following, was, however, from Derby:

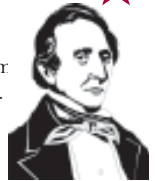
CATCHUP! CATCHUP! – Just received from the manufacturer, William Button of New Haven, a few batches more of his much admired French Tomato Catchup, at only 25 cents per bottle. For sale at the Long White Store. DOWNS & SANFORD, February 4, 1847.

The Journal offered a NEW RECIPE FOR MAKING BREAD – Knead up your dough and put it in a good, warm place, then take a Derby Journal, place it over the pan, and when you get up in the morning you will find your bread as light as a cork, so says a young lady who has tried it.

The details of daily life in 1847 weren't so very different from today. One big difference is the spread of news by technology. In 1847, the telegraph was the instrument used to keep people informed of regional, national and international news. Today we get major news stories almost instantaneously with iphones, twitter and television.

President's Special

The Library has scheduled another local history program entitled *President's Special* on Monday, January 14 at 6:30 PM. As the nation approaches the 2013 Presidential Inauguration, Rob Novak, Local Historian and popular presenter at the Library, will take his audience on a trip through history, from 1789 to today, exploring the little known relations and impacts numerous Presidents of the United States and the Valley region have had on one another. Rob has specialized in presenting local history in fun, interactive formats for more than twenty years. He is past director of the Derby Historical Society and the City of Shelton's Municipal Historian. In addition, he has authored four books through Arcadia Publications, and has been a popular historical columnist. Registration is requested.



TEEN ZONE

Tony DeLos

In our previous edition of this publication I welcomed DHS's new media specialist. Now I want to extend a warm welcome to the new library clerk at DMS, Ms. Margo Bondi, a valued patron of DPL for many years. We plan on joining forces to ensure all students have library cards. You can help us by encouraging your classmates to take advantage of signup opportunities in their respective media centers.

You may have noticed that the previous edition of this column conveyed no mention of annual student voting on our state's competition for favorite book of teen readers. That's because the **Nutmeg Book Award** committee is implementing some interesting changes affecting enthusiasts of their yearly-nominated selections. The timeline of the award is shifting to match the school year instead of the calendar year. The new lists will be announced to the public on May 1, just in time to kick off summer reading. As usual, we'll do everything within our power to have the nominated titles available on the official release day! Nutmeg aficionados will then have the opportunity to read the nominees throughout the summer and the following school year. Voting will subsequently take place in April. With this change, students who are currently reading the 2013 nominees will have a few extra months to read before casting their ballots. Award winners will be announced on May 15. I'll keep you posted via this column as the various milestones approach.



I would also like to provide an early appeal to the budding artists of our unique and treasured *All-American Valley*. March is **Youth Art Month** and the Teen Zone has some *prime real-estate* available for displaying the works of our locally-cultivated talent. If you are interested in having your favorite artistic creation exhibited in our dedicated young adult spaces, we'll be glad to try and accommodate your director-approved design. Either bring in your artwork or send a digital picture of yours to tdelos@biblio.org. It is our way of encouraging public support for quality school art programs.

The **Teen Chess Club** eagerly embarks upon its third year of competition, character-building, and expert coaching, all under the outstanding leadership of devoted volunteer, Mr. Julio Maldonado. His enthusiasm and mentoring of anyone expressing interest in this *game of kings* provides the momentum that sustains the club's longevity. If you have ever entertained the notion of learning the game or improving your existing chess skills, the Derby Public Library is the place to be on Monday evenings starting 6:30 PM. Let me also remind you that **Teen Game Nights** (first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM) and **Teen Movie Nights** (last Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM) continue as core offerings of DPL young adult programming. Santa graciously updated our Wii collection this past Christmas and with the Academy Awards fast approaching the latest DVD releases are guaranteed to be top notch.

Finally, be sure to explore our special displays recognizing **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, **Black History Month** and **Valentine's Day**. See you 'round the Teen Zone!