

# The Librarian

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Winter/Spring 2010 Issue

## LOST IN THE STACKS

Written By: Belinda deKay, Assistant Director

**Adjective – Lost:** 1) Not made use of:  
2) Absorbed in a reverie

**Verb – To Browse:** traced in Webster's Dictionary from the Old Saxon for breast, and from there to Old French, Middle English and so on to mean "grazing on tender shoots and twigs" and thus, in the wondrous ways and byways of language, has taken on a secondary meaning of "to skim through a book, reading at random passages that catch the eye ..... casually, especially in search of something of interest." (A long journey from that Old Saxon word, but then, may be not so very far...)

**Noun – Card Catalogue:** virtually extinct library artifact – A place where people could browse while searching for a book, like rummaging through an attic or closet and coming on the unexpected and forgotten.

**Verb – To search:** as in search for a book on line, (using your library card) to order a book on line from your own or any other library in your state and even beyond, to ask the circulation staff, again on line, to retrieve a book from the stacks and bring it to the circulation desk (which they are more than happy to do) where it can be picked up.

Of course, card catalogues, like dial telephones and darning socks, are time consuming and inefficient, and, anyway, are no longer with us, and on line searches and computerized libraries have enriched and broadened our lives in immeasurable ways, as have books on CD and tape and on Playaways, and the ability to download whole books.

But just as the ancient roots of words remain, just as the scagliola marble pillars in the lobby still show the marks where the gas lights once were, we can still browse in the stacks, get lost in the stacks, enjoy the serendipitous discovery, meet the new and reacquaint ourselves with the old – as Robert Frost said of poetry – "it reminds us of things we did not know we knew."

Oh, and, well, talking of poetry, where better to browse than up in the Gallery, among the acanthus leaves at the top of

the pillars, walking across the sea glass floor with its odd opaque and aqueous light, to the north end where the 800s, the 'literature' of Library parlance, are found.

Here is a true attic of the mind. Here we find writers on writers and writing – not just T.S. Eliot's classic 'On Poetry and Poets,' but the contemporary novelist J. M. Coetzee's essays on literature and a first edition of Virginia Woolf's 'Granite and Rainbow,' – titled from her description of biography as being "a fusion between the hard and solid granite of truth and the elusive beauty of a rainbow". My eye lights on an oversize book turned sideways on the shelf – "American Writers at Home", edited by Sandy McClatchy with seductive photographs and absorbing essays, suddenly I am truly lost in a book, spending time with old friends in a new setting – 'solid granite of truth and the elusive beauty of a rainbow'?

Here, too, are the great Norton Anthologies, the ultimate browse! Especially the "World Masterpieces" anthology – your own Great Books Course right there in your hand – and there will not be a test! There are Poetry Dictionaries, Dictionaries of Quotations, and William Safire's "Great Speeches in History." True Library treasures.

This is the realm of American Literature – the Dewey Decimal System is a sort of painting by numbers, or perhaps like the grids on a map – 811 translates into American poetry. Among the collections of Merrill and McClatchy, Dickinson, Frost, Bishop, Billy Collins, Stanley Kunitz, Adrienne Rich – are two Library of America volumes of American Poetry of the Nineteenth Century – Whitman and Whittier, the well-known and the little remembered – the story in poetry and verse of 19th Century America, Casey at the Bat and Paul Revere's Ride, Evangeline and The Defence of Fort McHenry – and, unexpectedly, comic verse by Oliver Wendell Holmes. This is company that is good to keep. Nineteenth Century voices that still speak to us in the 21st Century, telling us our story – are their voices clearer up here in this beautiful late 19th Century Gallery – a place to pause and listen perhaps?



Stonington Free Library - Upstairs view

I see a new edition of Elizabeth Bishop's poems, letters and essays, and then Henry James' travel writings tempt me, (interestingly, unlike our poets, a spirit very uncomfortable in his native land, thus a great traveler!) as do the writings of Henry Adams, not just his 'Education' but his glorious studies of Mont St Michel and Chartres, but another day perhaps, for two books have caught my eye. They look old. They are; the dates on the fly leaves are 1888 and 1889. One is selections from Thoreau's Winter Journal and the other is from his Summer Journal. Further along the shelves is a less old but quite worn and mended copy of Walden. Thoreau would approve of such frugality in preserving his book – the paper is good and the print is easy to read – what more do you want in a book? I am so content to be reacquainted with my old friend. And then, I pull out another rather shabby volume – curious because the title on the spine is illegible. It is a collection of essays by E.B White and as I idly turn the pages I suddenly read: "Thoreau is unique among writers in that those who admire him find him uncomfortable to live with – a regular hair shirt of a man... Hair shirt or no, he is a better companion than most, and I would not swap him for a soberer and more reasonable friend even if I could".

I had stumbled on an essay by one of my favorite writers about one my favorite writers. Tender shoots and twigs – enough indeed to graze on for a happy while.

Are these wonderful and various books lost in the stacks? – I don't know, and may be not really – was I lost in the stacks? – For a few hours on a cold January afternoon, beautifully so.

## NEW SFL WEBSITE ALMOST READY TO LAUNCH!

We are thrilled to announce that the Stonington Free Library's new website [www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org) will be launched before the first buds of spring. Library staff is working diligently with Miranda Creative Group to give the virtual branch of our library a whole new look along with expanded, 21st century functionality. The home page of our new website will offer you a warm and welcoming library branch in the comfort of your own home, where it will be easy to search the catalogue, check our events calendar, renew books, request interlibrary loans and perform many other tasks that used to require a visit to the library during operating hours. In many ways, our new website will allow us to be available to you 24 hours a day. Of course, we still look forward to seeing all of the familiar faces we know and love. The website will simply provide an additional convenience and service to our Library community.

**Bold** = Adult Activities

☞ = Pre-registration Required

## FEBRUARY

- 15 **Library Closed for President's Day**  
 18 3:00 pm Fancy Nancy Tea Party ages 3-8 ☞  
 19 10:30 am Where Do Animals Go When It Rains? Presented by the Denison Pequot Nature Center (for ages 2 - 7) a *One Book Every Young Child* program ☞  
 24 6:30 pm **Wednesday Night Book Discussion: Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield**  
 27 10:30 am Seussical Readings - Come hear Stonington High School "Seussical the Musical" cast members (in costume) read their favorite "Seuss Stories"

## MARCH

- 2 10:30 am Side by Side Story ☞  
 3 10:30 am Lap Time Story ☞  
 10:30 am Babes in Arms Story ☞  
 4 Noon **Books Sandwiched In Bring a sandwich and enjoy Ray Uzanus discuss Puzzled America by Sherwood Anderson**  
 5 10:30 am Preschool Story ☞  
 6 10:00 am Knitting & Crochet Group - Do you knit or crochet? Do you want to learn? Bring your projects or work on projects to donate where needed. Drop in, all ages, first Saturday of every month.  
 2-4 pm @ The Waterford Public Library - Join us as we celebrate our first "One Book Every Young Child" with crafts and activities, including author and illustrator of *The Big Storm: A Very Soggy Counting Book*, Nancy Tafuri.  
 9 10:30 am Side by Side Story ☞  
 10 10:30 am Lap Time Story ☞  
 10:30 am Babes in Arms Story ☞  
 12 10:30 am Preschool Story ☞  
 16 10:30 am Side by Side Story ☞  
 17 10:30 am Lap Time Story ☞  
 10:30 am Babes in Arms Story ☞  
 4:00 pm Make your own lucky Blarney Stone! Drop in - all ages  
 19 10:30 am Preschool Story ☞  
 20 1:30 pm "Walk in the Park" -Join Glenn Dreyer, Director of Conn College Arboretum as he identifies and assesses the trees in Wadawanuck Square; Refreshment provided in the Library after. Rain Date: March 27  
 23 10:30 am Side by Side Story ☞  
 10:30 am Babes In Arms Story ☞  
 24 10:30 am Lap Time Story ☞  
 10:30 am Babes in Arms Story ☞  
 24 6:30 pm **Wednesday Night Book Discussion: Northanger Alley by Jane Austen**  
 26 10:30 am Preschool Story ☞  
 30 10:30 am Side by Side Story ☞  
 31 10:30 am Lap Time Story ☞

## APRIL

- 2 10:30 am Preschool Story ☞  
 3 10:00 am Knitting & Crochet Group - Do you knit or crochet? Do you want to learn? Bring your projects or work on projects to donate where needed. Drop in, all ages, first Saturday of every month.  
 6 10:30 am Side by Side Story ☞  
 7 11:00 am Lap Time Story ☞  
 10:30 am Babes in Arms Story ☞  
 8 Noon **Books Sandwiched In Bring a sandwich and enjoy Cormac O'Malley discuss Helen Hooker, an artist and Cormac's mother. The book related to this topic is the catalog from Mrs. Hooker's exhibition**  
 9 10:30 am Preschool Story ☞  
 12-17 "Green Creations" Week Drop In - all ages  
 13 3-5 pm Join us at the COMO for Australia Day  
 25 5:00 pm **Sunday Evening Lecture Series Sue Ellen Thompson presents Robert Frost**  
 28 6:30 pm **Wednesday Night Book Discussion: The Shack by William P. Young**  
 29 3-5 pm Make your May Day Basket (for all ages)

## MAY

- 1 10:00 am Knitting & Crochet Group - Do you knit or crochet? Do you want to learn? Bring your projects or work on projects to donate where needed. Drop in, all ages, first Saturday of every month.  
 3-8 Make a Mother's Day card! Drop in - all ages  
 26 6:30 pm **Wednesday Night Book Discussion: The Help by Kathryn Stockett**  
 31 **Library Closed for Memorial Day**

Dates are subject to change. Be sure to confirm: 860.535.0658

# Bookworms

We would like to send out a special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus, for making such an effort to get to Stonington on December 12. The children had a wonderful time and really enjoyed a little one on one time with the big man himself. Everyone loved Mrs. Claus' rendition of *The Night Before Christmas* and we hope they will be able to stop by again next year.

Registration for Spring Story time will begin February 1 and our Drop In Read and Play will continue through the second week of February. Our fifth annual Children's Opera will be a performance of *Hansel and Gretel* by UConn Opera Outreach on February 6, 2 pm at the Stonington High School Auditorium. During February school vacation week we have two special events planned, a Fancy Nancy Tea Party on February 18 and the Denison Pequot Nature Center will be presenting a program, "Where Do Animals Go When It Rains" on February 19. This program will tie in with the One Book Every Young Child initiative that the southeastern Connecticut libraries are taking part in this year. The book chosen is Nancy Tafuri's, *The Big Storm*.

Spring story times will begin in March and continue through April 9. We'll celebrate St. Patrick's Day by making our own lucky Blarney stones and during April vacation, we hold our second "Green Creations" week. The COMO has also invited the Library to participate in their Australia Day on April 13. We have a May Day Basket craft on April 29 and we'll make Mother's Day cards the week of May 3 - 8.

Our summer reading program is coming up fast with its themes of water and waves. We will open the "Stonington Surf Shop" during the summer reading program and welcome any donations you or your business would like to make, whether monetary or merchandise we can use in our store or for the Basket Raffle. Registration opens on June 21!!

Calling All Teen Volunteers!

We are looking for our Teen Volunteers to help us out this summer. This "TV" program gives our volunteers real work experience and they can earn community service hours at the same time! The opportunity is open to students entering sixth grade or older who would like to work in our air-conditioned Children's Room for one or two shifts weekly. We are flexible with family vacations, but we do want volunteers who can commit to at least 4 weeks between June 21 and August 6. Creativity, good math skills, and excellent organizational abilities are appreciated and applications are available on-line at [stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://stoningtonfreelibrary.org)



**Stonington Free Library**  
*Serving Our Community Since 1887*

**Stonington Free Library**  
 20 High Street, Stonington, CT

**Mailing address**  
 PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378

**Hours**  
 10am-5pm M, T, Th and F  
 10am-8pm Wednesday  
 10am-3pm Saturday

**Phone** 860.535.0658

**Fax** 860.535.3945

**E-mail** [stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org](mailto:stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org)

**Web** [stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://stoningtonfreelibrary.org)

**Director** Margaret Victoria

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**Layout** CMB Creative Group

# Reading Room

## April is National Poetry Month

According to the website of The Academy of American Poets (<http://www.poets.org>), National Poetry Month is a month-long, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 to widen the attention of individuals and the media—to the art of poetry, to living poets, to our complex poetic heritage, and to poetry books and journals of wide aesthetic range and concern. Their hope is to increase the visibility and availability of poetry in popular culture while acknowledging and celebrating poetry's ability to sustain itself in the many places where it is practiced and appreciated.

To celebrate National Poetry Month, and in anticipation of Spring, here are some poems, selected by Library staff, to share.

*AZALEAS* (Cate Marvin, Merrill House Writer-In Residence, Fall 2009)

It was a town so quiet, the mailman was empty-handed.  
Why then nostrils of bloom, breathing so pinkly?

Even the town crier had taken a vow of silence.  
Why at the house's edge, beneath a wide-eyed window?

A pink so dense it begged hiding. Unsiblinged, unmated,  
the moon might find one rocking in a hedge of pink.

It was a town clothed from head to toe: skirts draped  
its ankles, sleeves were buttoned tight at its wrists.

So why a shimmered curtain, less a curtain than a sheer  
view of two figures on a bed, eyes affixed to a blue flickering?

Blooms pink as baby mice, soft as tiny hands, clattering  
the bush as if in celebration. Why a town that never smiled?

A figure lifted an arm to the nightstand, drank long a glass  
of amber. Blue light flickered to the metronome of drama.

Nobody touched nobody. Invisible figures mowed lawns  
soundlessly. The halls, everywhere, blue and institutional.

Where cars never drove with their windows rolled down.  
A town where anything might happen, except for me.

The flowers, only the flowers had hearts. Even birds  
pretended, their beating of wings mechanized by meanness.

Except for the petals that touched my fingers, except  
for the little oceans I viewed their pinks through,

except the tongue that was my nose, the whiskers  
I wore as I crawled on my knees through yards,

beneath the fresh fingers of azalea blooms, beneath  
a window that flickered blue, to where my smile grew.

*Dust of Snow* (Robert Frost, 1874-1963)

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.

*An altered look about the hills*  
(Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886)

An altered look about the hills;  
A Tyrian light the village fills;  
A wider sunrise in the dawn;  
A deeper twilight on the lawn;  
A print of a vermilion foot;  
A purple finger on the slope;  
A flippant fly upon the pane;  
A spider at this trade again;

An added strut in chanticleer;  
A flower expected everywhere;  
An axe shrill singing in the woods;  
Fern-odors on untraveled roads,-  
All this, and more I cannot tell,  
A furtive look you know as well,  
And Nicodemus' mystery  
Receives its annual reply.

*'Hope' is the thing with feathers* (Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886)

"Hope" is the thing with feathers-  
That perches in the soul-  
And sings the tune without the words-  
And never stops-at all-

And sweetest-in the Gale-is heard-  
And sore must be the storm-  
That could abash the little Bird-  
That kept so may warm-

I've heard it in the chillest land-  
And on the strangest Sea-  
Yet, never, in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb-of Me.

The Library takes pride in its poetry collection and invites you to borrow some of our newer additions, as well as those you will find shelved with the adult, young adult and children's books.

[Planisphere: New Poems](#) by John Ashbery.

[Essential Pleasures](#) edited by Robert Pinsky.

[The Simple Truth](#) by Philip Levine.

[Behind the Wheel: Poems About Driving](#) by Janet S. Wong.

[Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry](#) selected by Billy Collins.

## OUR FIFTH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S OPERA

The Stonington Free Library is excited to welcome the University of Connecticut's Opera Outreach program with their adaptation of the Humperdinck opera, *Hansel and Gretel*. They will be performing at the Stonington High School Auditorium on Saturday, February 6, at 2 PM. The doors will open at 1:30 pm. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Come enjoy this story of two resourceful children, based on the Brothers Grimm folktale.



## 2ND ANNUAL MYSTERY DINNER

Our second annual Mystery Dinner is in the planning stages and we are putting out a "Call to Host." The dinner is planned for early May (date to be determined based on other community events) and we would love to include a wider variety of host homes to accommodate this fun "friend raiser" for the Library. If you have interest in hosting 6-10 people at your home for this event, please email ([ruthsaunders@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthsaunders@yahoo.com)) or call (860-287-2000) Committee Chair Ruth Saunders for more details. Tickets will go on sale the end of March. We sold out last year, so call (860-535-0268) for your tickets early!

# Stonington Free Library OPEN 24/7 - Introducing Our New Website

## THE STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY

- HOME
- ABOUT THE LIBRARY
- CHILDREN & TEENS
- PROGRAMS & EVENTS
- NEWS
- RESOURCES
- SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

**Using the Library:**

- > Applying for a Library Card
- > The use of other Libraries
- > Borrowing, Renewing, & Placing Holds
- > Browsing the Library Catalog
- > Lending Policies

**Search the:**

Library Catalog

Search

**Get the E-Newsletter:**

Sign Up

Enter your email address to register

**2009 Calendar of Events:**

Event Listing Description and Link	1	2	3	4	5
Event Listing Description and Link	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Event Listing Description and Link	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Event Listing Description and Link	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Event Listing Description and Link	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Event Listing Description and Link	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date

**View Calendar of Events**

**Saturday Special:**

Seasonal arts and crafts projects are available or children and parents (drop-in, informal) in the Children's Room from 11 am - 2 pm on Saturdays.

**Click here for our list of programs and topics**

**Map & Directions | Questions? Email Us**

For more information, **Contact Us**



© 2009 Stonington Free Library | 20 High Street P.O. Box 232 | Stonington, CT 06378 | P. 860.535.0658 | F. 860.535.3945 | Questions or Comments? **Email Us**

Hours | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. | Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Sunday & All Legal Holidays: CLOSED

websitesforlibraries

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