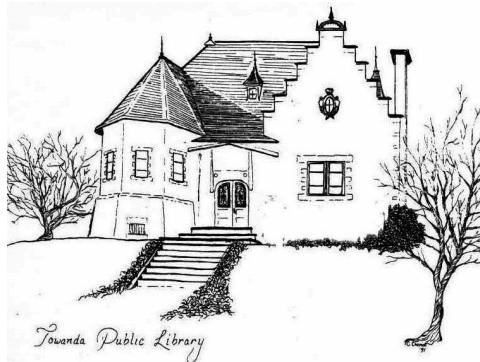


STEP RIGHT UP



Hours
Monday – Thursday: 10 – 8
Friday: 10 – 5
Saturday: 10 – 2
Sunday: 4 – 7

Volume 8 No.1 Jan - Feb, 2006 104 Main Street 265-2470 www.towandapubliclibrary.org

June's Jottings

Happy New Year! It's a most appropriate time to look back at the old and ahead to the new.

This past year the Library has continued to strive to bring courteous service to our community with a growing collection of bestsellers, non fiction, Books on CD, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, and children's books.

The Library's catalog was upgraded to make it easier to use. Story Hour and Time for Twos, are as popular as ever and more outreach programs have been added for area nursery schools.

The Towanda Public Library continues its educational and recreational services to the community but we couldn't do it without you. Your memorial contributions and participation in the "Adopt A Day" program help to keep the Library doors open 7 days a week. Without your support, our collection would be very small indeed.

With this in mind, we extend a hearty **"Thank You" to all our supporters.**

A special "Thank You" to all the townships and boroughs in our service area who contribute to the Library's general fund. And finally, "Thank You" to the hardworking Library Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, and volunteers. As always, your service is very much appreciated.

Some changes will be happening in the coming months. The Community Development Block Grant will be used to renovate the entryway to the Library Annex. This renovation will provide handicapped accessibility. The broken sidewalk will be replaced. The roof was replaced two years ago and a new heating and cooling system was installed this past year. We are looking forward to the day when the Annex can be fully utilized.

Until next time...

June Houghtaling, Director

Friends of the Library

At their end-of-the-year meeting. The Friends paid special attention to **Fran Welch and Lavonne Chenot** - both long time members of the Friends who have added so much to the work and the interaction of the group.

The Library again looked its finest with their holiday decorations. Their efforts are always appreciated by patrons and staff alike.

Now that the book sale is over for this season, all the members will have time enough to start some new projects.

If you would like to be informed as to how you may be included in their activities, leave your name and phone number at the desk.

* * * * *

TRUSTEES

As you may have read in the Daily Review, the Trustees have again applied for a **grant** to continue work at the Annex. This time the project will be inside with a handicap-accessible rest room. The rest room currently in use was the Kindergarten facility and is really an antique. In order to fully utilize the building, changes such as this need to be made.

The Library Committee of the Trustees will be meeting on January 18 at 3PM to consider a **master plan for future usage of the Annex.** Any ideas may be directed to Jane Gingerich, Chair of the Library Committee or to Director June Houghtaling.

The Public Relations Committee is currently developing the schedule for **cabinet displays** for the coming year. If you or an organization you support would like to reserve a month to display artifacts and/or collections, leave the information at the desk and the committee will contact you.

* * * * *

LIBRARY CLOSURES are announced on the radio and on our telephone system. The general rule is if there is snow cancellation of schools, the library does not open. Holiday closures are announced as they occur.

Kid's Korner

Warm up to reading - Ohh... what a great time of year to time of year to snuggle with a good book.

Our children's room is decked out with IRC (Interscholastic Reading Competition) books.

The Battle of the Books will take place at Hughesville JR.-SR. High in Hughesville, PA on April 22, 2006.

To help our area students read all the required books by the deadline we have been able to obtain ALL of the 126 books for Elementary, Junior High and Senior High book lists. We are so happy to be able to help the schools and kids with this reading competition.

We have listed these books for one week circulation to keep them moving.

Remember you are all winners for reading so many good books.

Good luck to all participants!

Spring 2006 Story times will begin in March and run for 8 weeks through April or May 2006. We traditionally don't run story times for little ones during the heavy snow months of January and February. This allows for less cancellations due to weather and parking problems.

Paws, claws, scales and tales! Is our theme for the 2006 Collaborative Summer Reading Program. We have begun getting some initial ordering for posters, book bags, incentives and more. Animals and pets of all kinds will be part of our encouragement of summer reading. One of the programs will be Rattlesnakes with Rich Guylas. Stay tuned for more programming and incentives information.

Alice Rae Clock, Children's Librarian

* * * * *

ADULT READING GROUP

The next meeting of the readers anonymous will be on Thursday, January 26 from 1 until 2 PM in the Library Conference Room.

The group decided this time to use a classic novel, "Cry the Beloved Country" by Alan Paton as the basis of their discussion. Published in 1948, a critic wrote in the Yale Review that it "was the finest novel I have ever read about the tragic plight of black-skinned people in a white man's world."

For his work on behalf of the people of South Africa and against the evils of apartheid, Paton has received international recognition including the Freedom Award in 1960. Much of what he believed in is now enshrined in South Africa's Bill of Rights

Books to be discussed are selected month-by-month by those in attendance.

ALL ADULT READERS ARE INVITED - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

ADOPT-A-DAY AT THE TOWANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Did you know that for \$25 you can celebrate a birthday, honor people important to you, remember loved ones and many more listings when you Adopt-A-Day at the Library.

Your name or your honoree's name is posted on your special day for all the patrons and staff to see your generosity in supporting **MORE OPEN HOURS, MORE COPIES OF NEW BOOKS, MORE LARGE PRINT BOOKS, ADDED SPECIAL SERVICES.**

To hop onto the band wagon, just send your contribution (in multiples of \$25) along with your name and address, the person honored/remembered - if any, and their name and address if you would like us to notify them, and the special day you desire.

What a great gift for the person who has everything!

* * * * *

What We Oughta Know

Not long ago, I chanced upon a 1956 edition of the board game Go to the Head of the Class and discovered that American children of the 1950's had it all over their descendants. Players must answer questions correctly in order to advance. "Who was the 'Napoleon of the stump' - "Was Lillie Langtry or Lillian Russell known as Jersey Lily?" - "How many seedless apple trees were there in the world in 1905" - "Birchard was which president's middle name?" The game, advertised as being for people "8 to adult" is now virtually unplayable.

The United States will never have a true national curriculum (besides Jeopardy), and there will never again be a generation capable of replying "Polk, Lillie Langtry, 2005, and Rutherford B. Hayes" to those questions. But it probably makes sense to designate a dozen or so things that every American should know.

My short list would include: the difference between Theodore and Franklin, and between Joe and Eugene; the significance of Booth, Guiteau, Czolgosz, and Oswald; the meaning of the term "tax event"; the price of gasoline in other industrialized countries; the in-field fly rule; how to tell time on a nondigitalized watch; the custom that people be allowed off an elevator before others get on; the convention that when walking you keep to the right; the fact that a dozen specimens of a single species don't count as one item for Quick Check Out purposes; and the fact that the now universal linguistic trope "No problem" is not synonymous with "You're welcome."

Cullen Murphy
The Atlantic Monthly