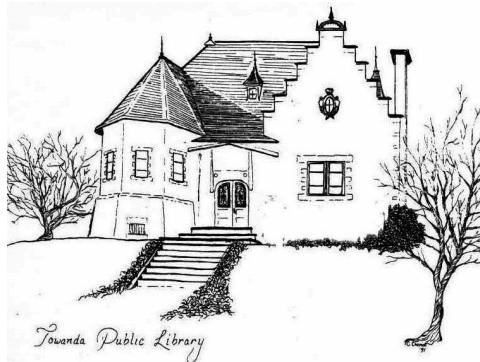


# STEP RIGHT UP



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

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## June's Jottings

It has been my pleasure to participate in the Library's Book Discussion Group these past several months. The premise of the Group was to read and discuss books with a cultural theme. The facilitator was to be a volunteer from the group. The group chooses the books to read. Each member is responsible for obtaining his or her own book but it can be ordered through the library.

Our first book, SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS., (fiction) led us to San Piedro Island, north of Puget Sound, where, in 1954, a local fisherman is found drowned and a Japanese American is charged with his murder. San Piedro is haunted by the memory of what happened to its Japanese residents during World War II, when an entire community was sent into exile while its neighbors watched.

The second book, THE COLOR OF WATER, (biography) portrayed the mother of James McBride. Mr. McBride grew up one of twelve siblings in the housing projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn, the son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white. His mother was the daughter of an Orthodox rabbi in rural Virginia. She ran away to Harlem, married a black man and founded an all-black Baptist church in her living room in Red Hook.

The third book, THE NAMESAKE by Jhumpa Lahiri, (fiction) takes the Ganguli family from their tradition bound life in Calcutta through their transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer, Ashoke adapts more easily than his wife who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the Ganguli's are shown the results of trying to bring their old ways into the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd name.

As you can see, we've visited three different cultures by way of the written word. We've learned a great deal about Japanese, Indian, and African American culture and ourselves.

The Book Discussion Group has 12 members , more or less. It's a very informal group. The members are there because they love books and want to talk about them. Our discussions may not be particularly erudite, but I always learn something from the book and the people with whom I share this time. If you're interested in reading and sharing your thoughts, join us by calling the library. The group usually meets on a Thursday afternoon at 1:00pm. The date is decided at each meeting. Hope to see you there.

**June Houghtaling, Director**

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*Friends of the Library*

**ROUND TABLE KNITTING:**

The Friends of the Library have started a **KNITTING CLUB** in the basement of the Library - every **Tuesday Afternoon, beginning at 1:00** around the "round table".

**This group is for beginners, intermediates and advanced knitters alike.**

Our goal is to dedicate time to our own personal knitting projects in a relaxed and fun atmosphere while sharing both our talents and stumbling blocks,

You don't have to sign up, and you don't have to attend each session - simply gather your supplies and attend when you can.

There is usually a teacher there, so if you are a beginner, don't hesitate to try it out. If you really want lessons, arrangements can be made - for a small donation or for the love of knitting.

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## TRUSTEES

The Trustees petitioned the County Commissioners for a portion of their **Community Development Block Grant** money to construct a handicap entry and rest room. The petition was granted and the money will be available at the end of this year. So plans will be refined before that time so that construction can begin when the money becomes available.

## TRUSTEES (continued)

Many heating companies replied to the Trustee request for solutions to the heating problems at the Annex and the Board will take those under advisement at their next meeting.

The use of the Annex is the prime consideration in both these considerations. Space in the Library is at a premium and there needs to be a workable solution to the crowding that is within the Library resources.

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### Kid's Korner

#### **Are you dreaming of summer sun?**

Well, we have fun in the sun for you. **Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds** is the theme for our Summer Reading Program this year. We have begun to schedule activities for our eight-week summer medieval event. SELF Family Literacy, Friends of The Towanda Public Library and Area Businesses fund our incentives, prizes and materials. Help us to make this our best Summer Reading Program ever!

**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling will be coming out this summer.** If you can't wait... check out our list of books for those who like Harry Potter. We have 25 titles or series that are on the list. Come in and explore some good reads.

Don't miss these new award winning selections in our library. Kira-kira means glittering, shining in Japanese and is the title for the new Newbery Medal winner for 2004. This is a great story about two Japanese sisters and their family. Cynthia Kadohata is the author of this special book about life in the United States. Kitten's first full moon by Kevin Henkes is the Caldecott Medal winner for 2004. The beautifully illustrated book in shades of gray, black and white, shows how the little feline feels on his night romp.

**Story times have begun.** These are great times for little ones to enjoy socialization with their peers and gain pre-reading awareness. We always do a craft and activities include stories, songs, puppets, rhymes, and learning colors, shapes, and numbers. Our themes this Spring session 2005 are Exercise, Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day, Splendid Spring, Easter, Eggs, Frogs, and Beaches. Energy abounds at these hourly sessions from **10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.** Call 265 - 2470 if you would like more information about joining in the fun.

The children's audio books have begun to go CD. Titles include The Golden Hour by Maiya Williams, The Akhenaten Adventure by P.B. Kerr (Children of the Lamp: book 1), The Prophecy of the Stones by Flavia Bujor and Freddy and the Ignoramus by Walter R. Brooks. We will be adding more titles before the summer vacation starts.

Enjoy your reading!!!

Alice-Rae Clock, children's librarian

## READING GROUP

The next meeting of the Reading group is scheduled for **Thursday April 7 at 1 PM in the Library Conference Room.**

The selection for discussion will be **Wild Ginger** by **Anchee Min.**

This is an immensely satisfying tale of love, lust and revenge set against a backdrop of political upheaval. At once a coming-of-age novel and a fascinating and confusing period in China's past.

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## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer.

One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck was a terrified boy. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came out the door of the family home.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal: let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father. He'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of."

And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London.

He went on to become throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Year's afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

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## I Tried, Really I did!

I wanted to find a book - so I went on the Library's web site - I knew I could access the **POWER Library** from there - but then it asked me to enter the Library code and the five number ID code on my Library card - no spaces. My card has only 4 numbers!

And where was I to find the Library's ID?

So here's the scoop direct from the check-out desk staff: the Library's code is pl (which I assume is Pennsylvania Library) 2922 - and if your card has 4 numbers, put a zero in front of your number.