

# The Idea!

The Newsletter for the Western Sullivan Public Library

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## Finding your way at the library

By Linda Drollinger

One bright sunny morning in May, a hiker with mountaineer's backpack, walking stick, and pots and pans dangling at his sides walked into the Narrowsburg branch of WSPL and asked of nobody in particular, "Where am I?"

Veteran library staffer Irma Schilling informed him that he was in Narrowsburg, New York, ascertained that he was en route from the Florida Keys to Providence, Rhode Island, and consulted a New York State map to get him oriented.

Armed with a photocopy of a regional map and the library's phone number, the hiker set out on the last leg of his journey, promising to send the library staff a postcard when he reached his destination. WSPL staff members have been giving directions to patrons and



passing tourists alike for years. Lately, however, they spend more time helping patrons take their lives in new directions.

If you've ever thought about getting your GED, pursuing vocational training, beginning or resuming a college education, changing careers, finding a new hobby or enhancing an old one — your library is a great place to start. If you'd like to get a cottage industry off the ground or realize a long-time dream, check us out.

WSPL's friendly and knowledgeable staff will be delighted to help you reach your destination, whatever it may be.

Writer Linda Drollinger is a staff member at the Tusten-Cochecton branch of WSPL. Illustrator Chantal Alexy works at WSPL's Jeffersonville branch.

### Take It Or Read It

Jeffersonville patrons:



Sylvia Peters: "I like any thing foreign...about different civilizations or cultures. I loved *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*."



Tom Brennan: "I use the wireless access here to work on my thesis — I'm getting my master's degree in acting theory and practice. I also do research here."



Ashley Peters: "'Non-fiction, reference, educational books, novels... I like them all. I take out videos and DVDs too.'"

## In sun, rain, patrons flock to DVDs

Call it a phenomenon fueled by the tough economy — and perhaps by this summer's drippy weather — but most libraries are noticing an uptick in interest in DVDs. Here are some of the newest favorite film offerings on WSPL branch shelves.

For bloodthirsty ancient reality, the DVD series *Rome: the Rise and Fall of an Empire* is a must-see. "It is 114 B.C. and the Republic of Rome is a small empire clinging to the rim of the Mediterranean," the cover tells us. "Suddenly, terror grips the Romans as the first barbarian attack smashes the imperial border..." Et tu, Visigoths?

If you missed the break-out hit *Slumdog Millionaire*, now is your chance to rent it, free of charge.

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## The arty touch behind Summer Program

By Jen Rhoades

It was a great day at the Summer Reading Program finale! The fruits of everyone's hard work were proudly on display. Poetry, collages, and painted wood blocks adorned the walls and festooned the room, and homemade videos brought favorite children's books to life. The audience did not realize it, but the program participants also had a few surprises up their sleeves: a group hip hop dance routine that got everyone clapping and moving in their seats, as well as a live performance of the play "Hansel and Gretel."

A hearty round of applause is in order for everyone involved in the 5-week Summer Program and its wonderful culmination. This includes our creative participants, inspiring guest artists, and steadfast assistants.

The Library would also like to send out a gigantic "thank you" to our Summer Reading Program coordinator, Laura Moran. This was Laura's first time heading this highly anticipated annual program, and her dedication of time, energy, and creativity was extraordinary. Immersing children in a variety of creative forms and drawing upon the talents of local artists and performers, Laura provided a truly diverse, fun (and dare I say, educational!) experience for everyone involved. Thank you Laura - we're already looking forward to next year!



Laura Moran at First Friday Poetry Reading in Narrowsburg.

**The Idea!** Newsletter for WSPL

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## Tree Management Workshop

Ryan Trapani is back again with another "Forest of the Trees" workshop. The Crop Tree Management Workshop will inform landowners how to improve their forest land. Landowners can learn how to identify, manage, harvest and sell their forest trees. Trapani will speak about controlling pests and nuisances, managing new plantations, and marketable trees vs. invasive species. He will also discuss how to inventory forest resources, prune trees, and make your forest wildlife-friendly. The program is at Callicoon on Tues, Aug. 25; Jeffersonville on Wed., Aug. 26; and Narrowsburg on Thurs., Aug. 27. All three sessions are free to the public and begin at 7pm.



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-Nora Yelekli

**WHY READ?** "(Books) relieve me from idleness, rescue me from company I dislike, and blunt the edge of my grief, if it is not too extreme. They are the comfort and solitude of my old age. When I am attacked by gloomy thoughts, nothing helps me so much as the running to my books. They quickly absorb me and banish the clouds from my mind... They always receive me with welcome." - Montaigne

## Patrons flock to Library's free film rentals

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This crowd pleaser tells the story of a poor, uneducated man who finds himself one correct answer away from success on India's version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire."

"Harrowing" "Revealing!" That's how critics describe the documentary **□We Feed the World,** the award-winning expose of our modern agricultural system. From interviews with struggling fishermen, long-distance

truckers and corporate executives in the food industry, the film describes how the pursuit of profit takes precedence over environment, worker health and feeding hungry people.

**□Foyle's War,** the popular British detective series set in England during World War II, is available, as is **□McCleod's Daughters,** an Australian drama that tells the story of two sisters reunited after they inherit a cattle station

they then proceed to operate with an all-female workforce.

Does your taste run to the quirky? Try **□Happy Go Lucky** a charming slice-of-life story about a 30-year-old grade school teacher in England who's cheeky and funny. Or the newly released documentary **□Woodstock: 3 Days of Peace and Music,** with an added feature on Sullivan County's own Bethel Woods Museum. Find your bliss: rent a movie!