

# The Idea!

## The Newsletter for the Western Sullivan Public Library

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2009

## All 'hands on' holiday crafts

### Take it or read it

*Jeffersonville library fans*



Suzan Devletsah-Goodfriend: I borrow art books and movies, use the computer, and read the newspapers and magazines here. It's a very good library: my daughter (see below) has been coming here since she was two years old.



Nour Goodfriend: I love to read Agatha Christie mysteries. I also use the library to do research for school. I recently borrowed 'Hattie Big Sky' for health class. I'm in 7th grade at Sullivan West.

It's that time of year... no, not just mall shopping till we drop, but opting for time to appreciate family, friends, the beauties of winter and the joy of living. Handmade gifts offer a warm way to express appreciation. This month, our library branches will host fun-filled workshops for creating the right gift for the right person.

All workshops are open to adults and children who are at least 7 and accompanied by an adult.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, our Callicoon branch will offer a Jewelry Workshop from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Decorate and string a mahogany tile and bead necklace on ribbon; then create a ring to match. And in Callicoon on Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 4:30 p.m. to



5:30 p.m., make a one-of-a-kind birch bark picture frame for a special guy in our Forest Frame workshop.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the Jeffersonville branch will offer Pet Beds & Treats, a 1 p.m. workshop on making your own no-sew fleecy pet bed. You'll also cook up a batch of doggy biscuits and decorate the jar.

Finally, in our Narrowsburg branch on Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 6 to 7 p.m., participants will hand-paint a blank silk scarf in brilliant, bold swaths of color in our Hand-Painted Silk Scarves workshop.

All are free of charge but are limited in size, so please register



### Barking for books

Fiona the Reading Dog listened intently to readers like Tristan, above in chair, and his brother, Jordan, at right, on Nov. 21 in WSPL Jeffersonville branch. Looking on are Tristan's mom, at right, and Fiona's owner, Nancy Greene. The canine was trained to sit still and listen patiently through the Reading Education

### Great writers on reading

**Anthony Trollope**

"Book love, my friends, is your pass to the greatest, the purest and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared. It lasts when all other pleasures fade. It will support you when all other recreations are gone. It will last you until your death. It will make your hours pleasant to you as long as you live."

## Volunteer Spotlight

# Sheila Coleman: books, travel and grandkids

By Kathy Daley

Sheila Coleman read books when she traveled to Alaska, books when she worked with the poor in Panama, books when she was a child, reading by flashlight, moon light and street light, as she likes to phrase it.

These days, Sheila enjoys reading in her favorite living room chair at home in Youngsville, with a cup of steaming hot tea at hand. "Mysteries, mostly," she says of her favorite reading material. "The lighter ones, I can go through in an hour and a half. The good ones, I stay up till midnight reading."

Sheila gives her time and energy at the Jeffersonville branch every Wednesday from 10 a.m. till noon. Her tasks include shelving books, pulling books that go out to patrons in other libraries, and making sure the shelves are tidy.

She's the mother of 5, stepmother of 3, grandmother of 8 and great-grandmother



**Sheila Coleman**

of 6. One of her sons lives in an Alaskan fishing and shipping village in the shadow of the Aleutian Mountains, and Sheila travels there to visit each summer.

Touring the U.S. was a big part of her life

with husband Dan. The two divided their time between traveling in a recreational vehicle and volunteering with Trinity Missions, a Catholic group that ministers to the poor. It was with Trinity that Sheila and her husband wound up in charge of a shelter for homeless people in Panama City. "Dan and I were good ones to run it," she said. "We were children of the Depression, so we understood what they were going through."

After Dan died five years ago, Sheila needed a way to occupy some time. The Jeffersonville library became the beneficiary, as did Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris, where she volunteers on Mondays. She is an active parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Youngsville.

"We are grateful to have Sheila with us," said Branch Manager Jen Rhoades. "Her willingness to help us with a variety of tasks — especially the intricate, time-consuming work of keeping our collection

## An A+ life of publishing, politics for N'sburg patron

By Linda Drollinger

An avid reader and published writer, Narrowsburg patron Judy Harlan has used her facility with words to build noteworthy careers in publishing and politics.

### Patron Profile

Raised in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Judy attended Syracuse University and graduated from the University of Buffalo. Following her college graduation, she headed to New York City, where she became the first woman editor for Macmillan Publishing's college department; editing books on home economics was her primary responsibility.

A woman of few domestic skills and having limited background in the subject area, Judy made the job her own by boning up on the subject matter and accurately sizing up the publishing competition. Both objectives were accomplished by reading all the home economics material she could get her hands on.

In 1965, Judy left publishing for politics, working first on the John Lindsay mayoral campaign, and then becoming Democratic Party leader for the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Since then, she has alternated between politics and publishing, pioneering the way for women in both fields. Judy was the first woman campaign manager for a statewide campaign, and she worked for both Bella Abzug and Lawrence Cooke as they championed issues central to women's rights. Later, she returned to publishing, working as the project director of a 32-book spelling series by *Highlights for Children*.

In between her many other ventures, Judy co-authored (with Kathleen McCoy) two scholarly books on English literature entitled, respectively, *English Literature to 1785* and *English Literature from 1785*. Both books were published in 1992 by HarperCollins, and are available at the Tusten-Cochecton branch of WSPL under the call number 820.9.

Now semi-retired, Judy finds time for worldwide travel and, of course, reading. (Author's Note: In November of 2000, Judy discarded her television set and hasn't missed it since.)

Her favorite subjects are American and world history, murder mysteries, and Middle East intrigue; her favorite authors are W.E.B. Griffith, Colleen McCullough (the Roman books), Michael Connelly, Daniel Silva, and David Halberstam (*The Coldest Winter*). Her favorite library (including the New York Public) is the Tusten-Cochecton branch of WSPL, because its volunteers and staff respect patrons and the community as a whole, and they consistently provide an excellent response to the varied needs of both.

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