

The Idea!

The Newsletter for the Western Sullivan Public Library

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20 Years Young in Narrowsburg

By Kathy Daley

The year was 1988, and Grace Johansen decided Narrowsburg should have a library. "Everywhere I'd lived had had a library," said Grace, who had newly moved to the area from New Jersey. "I had also seen the library in Hawley (Pa.), and I said to myself, 'if Hawley can have one, so can Narrowsburg.'"

She corralled five women into joining her as an organizing committee: Beth Peck, Elaine Giguere, Gloria Krause, Carrie Sannatta and Jean Kerrigan. They found a storefront, got out the word they needed, donated books, raised money and bought book stacks. They wrote to the Jeffersonville and Grahamsville libraries and found out how to check books in and out. Johansen trained volunteers, and they were off and running.

The story of the Narrowsburg branch was part of an April 18 celebration that honored Western Sullivan Public Library volunteers in general, and Narrowsburg



From left, back row, WSPL Board Member Keith Robisch; early founder of Narrowsburg branch Grace Johansen; early N'sburg Board member Angela Daley; 20-year staff member Irma Schilling, Board Vice President Bill Whalen. First row; Board Members Jane Luchsinger, Barbara Harder and Board President Pam Reinhardt.

history, specifically. Twenty years ago, the library moved from its storefront on Main Street to its current headquarters on Bridge Street. One of its early staff members, Irma Schilling, accepted accolades and gifts for her 20 years at the branch.

Voters approve Library budget

The 2010-2011 budget for Western Sullivan Public Library received a big thumbs-up from voters on April 21, when the spending plan was approved by 103 "yes" votes to 14 "no."

Voters also re-elected trustee Keith Robisch to the WSPL Board of Directors and chose newcomer Kevin McDonough to serve on the Board as well.

"It is heartening to see the budget vote pass by such a large margin," said Library Director Susan Scott. "It means to me that people are not only using the library but find it to be a worthwhile expenditure in hard times. I thank our communities for participating in the vote and helping us to continue to provide a variety of services for everyone."



She's got her goat

Library Director Susan Scott delightfully welcomed two new members to the family farm on May 3: twin baby goats, Silky (in photo with mom Maggie) and Rory. Scott pored over books on how to deliver goats and she and her husband, Pete, did the job themselves, with help from Maggie, who is a Pygmy Nubian Cross. Scott recommends the book *Goat Song* by Brad Kessler, available from WSPL.

On First Fridays, when poetry is hot *and* cool

Spoken word. Slam. Poetry. Theatre. It's all there for the taking at our Narrowsburg branch on the first Friday of each month when the library transforms into a poetry café featuring open mic and a visiting special poet/performer.

Here is the upcoming schedule for First Fridays: Contemporary Writers Series, which begin at 7:30 p.m.

- May 7: Erica Miriam Fabri, poet, and Robin Andre, musician.
- June 4: poets Rachel McKibbens and Mike Henry
- July 2: poet Matthew John Conley
- August 6: poet Peter Sragher

And now the
callicoon creek
takes the turn
the last turn
and its waters
curve
circle
hit
the rounded stones
as if they wanted
to return
to their spring
And take its fish
back
to the sharp mountain
stones

— *By poet Peter Sragher, who appears at Narrowsburg branch on Friday, Aug. 6*

- Sept. 3: poets Dan Solis and Jim Warner
- Oct. 1: poets Mary McConnell and Tristan Silverman
- Nov. 5: poet Sean Thomas Dougherty
- Dec. 3: poets Susan B. Anthony Somers-Willett and Neil Shepard.

She's all ears

Fiona, the Reading Dog, returns to the Jeff library on May 15 and June 19 at 11 a.m., when children will have the opportunity to read while Fiona listens patiently. Call 482-4350 to reserve a spot. Limited space.



Sign up now for 'Find Art'

Kirstin Broussard from MOMA in Manhattan explores American art and then squires families through art making itself at "FindArt: Family Art Projects" in Jeffersonville.

All ages are welcome, but the program is best for school-age children who can listen for at least 15 minutes. Parents and grandparents are strongly encouraged to participate.

FindArt sessions run from 1 to 3 p.m. and take place on Saturdays May 8, 22; June 12, 26. Pre-registration is a must. Call 845-482-4350.

Quiz a reference librarian, even at 3 a.m.

Have a question about a book, some research with which you need help, or a query about your community? Our library now provides a 24-hour service, appropriately called Ask Us 24/7, through the Ramapo Catskill Library System.

The online reference service allows you to immediately "chat" with a reference librarian who will help you find the answer you need. To access the service, simply log onto our web site at www.wsplonline.org and click on Ask Us 24/7.

Ask Us 24/7 is managed by the Western New York Library Resources Council, a non-profit consortium of libraries. The librarian who answers your call will be sitting at her or his desk somewhere in the U.S. and will be using Internet sources and specialized databases to answer your questions.

Here are some of the questions asked and answered recently:

* I need assistance searching for a book on planetary and inter-stellar space exploration.

* How can I get information on the New Deal?

* I am searching for a relative's obituary that ran in a newspaper in 2007.

* How can I find out where the Winter Olympics were held when the U.S. hockey team won in 1980?

* I'd like to know if there is a book club in Montgomery, N.Y. and how to get in touch with members of the club.

Don't forget Spring Book Sale, Jeff branch, May 15 through May 22!

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