



INFOBYTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE
WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 6, Issue 4

Winter 2005

From the President

Last year was a great year for the Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library. Not only did we see the number of members dramatically increase, we were able to expand our volunteer activities in the library and provide increased financial support for children and adult programs. The challenge for 2005 is to build on that base to expand membership, increase financial support to the library and recruit volunteers for expanded services in the library.



In 2004, we had a membership of 134 families and raised over \$4300. The majority of this money was used to fund programs in the meeting room for both children and adults and included \$500 towards the purchase of a new piano. Other major expenses were \$500 for meeting room refreshments, \$380 for staff educational grants and \$1200 for library publicity (Infobytes, flyers and postage).

The quality of the programs for adults and children in many cases is directly proportional to the fee paid for the program. Thus to obtain the best programs, fees of up to \$300 are not uncommon. This year we hope to significantly increase our contribution to the library for programs. To do this, we need a major increase in membership and/or higher level contributions from existing members. **Whether you are just joining or are renewing your membership, please consider joining as a "Library Lover" or higher level to give us additional funds to support the library.**

The major volunteer effort in 2004 was the serving of refreshments at the adult programs in the Community Meeting Room in the library. We served refreshments at 43 Friday afternoon movies, ten "Meet the Author" and other evening programs, and eight daytime "Beyond the Pages" programs. The Friends also supported the Poetry festival in May and manned the refreshment booth at the Summer Reading Club's Grand Finale Carnival. In addition, the Friends are responsible for the Books-to-Go program and Magazine Exchange program.

In 2005, new volunteer opportunities exist such as the Adopt-a-Shelf program and the WWII oral history project for our senior citizens. We also expect a lot of volunteer time will eventually be needed in the Local History and

Genealogy Room once an implementation plan is defined.

Again I want to thank all the members of the Friends for their financial support and volunteer activities in 2004. I think we really made a difference and our efforts were fully appreciated by the library director and her staff. As we move into 2005, we will continue to have many opportunities to support the library. Let's continue to do our part to make the West Caldwell Public Library a truly "great" library for all our residents to enjoy.

Ron Day

Time for Membership Renewal

Membership in the Friends must be renewed in January of each year. Membership entitles you to receive the quarterly Infobytes Newsletter as well as periodic mailings listing the planned library events in the Community Meeting Room. Members are also eligible to receive a 20% discount on all in-stock books at Book World in West Caldwell.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership application/renewal form and envelope. Please complete the form and return it to the library with your tax-deductible contribution. Also, please indicate if you would like to volunteer some of your time to help the library.

If you need additional forms/envelopes, they are available at the Circulation Desk in the library.

Friends Executive Board - 2005

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Know Your Library Staff

Sandy Coughlin, Senior Library Assistant

Senior Library Assistant Sandy Coughlin has been working at the West Caldwell Public Library for more than fifteen years. Employed part time, Sandy's primary responsibility is working the Circulation Desk where she loves interacting with the public. Her other duties currently include purging old library files and, her favorite, creating the monthly newsletter that informs patrons what is hot and what is on the Library's To-Buy list.



On her days off, Sandy walks four miles with an assortment of friends and visits some elderly neighbors. She also enjoys taking yoga classes, hiking, going to the movies and spending time in New York City where she visits her sister. Her everyday hobbies are studying Spanish and, of course, READING.

Her favorite books of all time??? Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver and Where the Heart Is by Billie Letts. Her favorite series, The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall and her favorite children's books for adults are Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo and A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck.

Sandy graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a B.A. in Early Childhood education. She has been married to her husband, Greg, for twenty years. They have two daughters: Samantha, who is fifteen, and Valerie, who is nine.

Public Input Requested for Local History and Genealogy Room

The library staff, with the assistance of the Friends of the Library, is preparing a plan to define the present and future capabilities of the local History and Genealogy Room. Specifically they need to define the scope and types of publications which would be most useful to our library users.

At this stage of the plan, they would like to receive feedback from local area residents who are involved in preparing or who have prepared family histories of genealogies for their families and wish to have a copy placed on file in the West Caldwell Library for use by present and future generations. They also would be interested in your comments and recommendations as to the type of material that should be available at the local level.

If you are interested in participating in this activity, the library has prepared a brief questionnaire which is available at the Circulation Desk.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Adopt a Shelf at the Library

The West Caldwell Public Library asks that you "Adopt a Shelf" – or two – of your choice, and keep it in apple pie order. Do you love to cook? Then the 640's are for you. Are biographies your favorite reading? You can own the biography shelves! Just read your shelves carefully, making sure they're in strict numerical or alphabetical order, at least twice a month. You will be given a training session beforehand and will discover the genius inherent in the Dewey Decimal System (you can even check a book out about Mr. Dewey, if you wish). Training classes will be offered the last Friday of each month, beginning 1/31/05. Please register now with the Reference Desk at 973-226-5441, or drop by and sign up.

WWII Oral History Project

Last fall, the library embarked on a local history project and is inviting veterans to share their memories of World War II as part of an oral history project. Willing veterans from the West Essex area will be asked to share their stories at the library. The librarians will tape record them, then transcribe the stories to become part of a collection for the local history room. The veterans meet on first Thursday of each month at 2 pm.

Peter Pirrello was 20 years old when he became part of the 104th infantry Division of the US Army – known as the Timberwolves – at the end of World War II. Pirrello served as a machine gunner in Germany before being discharged at the end of the war. Now 79, Pirrello, of Caldwell, was one of the first veterans of World War II to share his story with the West Caldwell Public Library.

Another veteran who participated in the oral history project is John Farrell of West Caldwell. He worked in communications while stationed in Italy and returned home in 1946.



World War II veterans Peter Perrillo, left, and John Farrell share memories in the local history room of the West Caldwell Public Libraries. Both are participating in the library's oral history project.

Greetings from the Director

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!! As we reflect on the Library's accomplishments of 2004, several stand out in my mind. The completion of "A New Chapter," the Library's renovation and expansion project, culminated on Sunday, April 25 at a special Grand Re-Dedication Ceremony. The Board of Trustees and staff were honored by the attendance of state dignitaries including Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, West Caldwell's Mayor, the Honorable Joseph Tempesta, the State Librarian, Norma Blake and the New Jersey Library Association's President Elect, Carol Phillips, as well as over 200 residents of the town.



The second highlight of the year was our smooth transition to an upgraded Circulation and Acquisition System called Workflows, which was required of the library due to our membership in BCCLS. The staff was extensively trained in all the new procedures. They quickly and competently learned the new system. Library patrons have been very patient and understanding since our "live" date of December 15.

During 2004 we received several important donations that have enhanced our collection. The Historical Society of West Caldwell donated over 500 books and periodicals from the William Young Pryor Collection for the new Local History and Genealogy Room. Mr. Woody Walker of North Caldwell presented us with a collection of genealogy books that also will be housed in this room. The Reference and Youth Services staffs completed the selection and purchase of materials from the generous donation for Judaica materials given to the library by Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Akselrad of West Caldwell. We wish to again thank these donors as well as everyone else who supported the library with financial donations.

We wish to thank all our patrons who provided the staff with tasty treats during the Holiday Season. We enjoy working with everyone who visits the library and asks for our assistance in locating information, a good book to read or a humorous movie to watch. Because of you, our loyal patrons, the West Caldwell Public Library is a cornerstone of the community, "a place where friends can meet".

The library staff and Board of Trustees would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of the Library for all their support during 2004. From making coffee for our Friday afternoon movies to manning the refreshment booth at the Summer Reading Club's Grand Finale Carnival to providing the funding for many of our programming endeavors, the Friends play an extremely important role in the behind-the-scenes operations of the library.

And on a personal note, last spring I had the honor to be elected Vice-President/President-Elect of the New Jersey Library Association. I have been "in-training" since June and will continue to attend many of the organization's committee meetings and advocacy events wearing this hat so I can easily move into the job of President in late spring. Although I will be on the road traveling throughout the state promoting the importance of libraries and the provision of high quality library services to constituencies from High Point to Cape May, my first priority will continue to be West Caldwell Public Library and the community it serves.

The library staff and Board of Trustees look forward to another outstanding year of working with each and every one of you!

All My Best,

April L. Judge

Friday Afternoon at the Movies

Showtime 2:00 pm

January – Award winning Documentaries

1/28/05 Small Wonders. 1995. Directed by Allan Miller. A dedicated violin teacher inspires underprivileged students to grow from beginning musicians into performers in Carnegie Hall.

February – The Garden State

2/4/05 Jersey Girl. 2004. Drama. Rated PG-13. Ben Affleck, Liz Tyler, Raquel Castro, George Carlin.

2/11/05 Atlantic City. 1981. Drama. Rated R. Burt Lancaster, Susan Sarandon, Kate Reid.

2/18/05 Clerks. 1995. Comedy. Rated R. Brian O'Halloran, Kevin Smith, Jeff Anderson.

2/25/05 A Beautiful Mind. 2002. Drama. Rated PG-13. Russell Crowe, Ed Harris, Jennifer Connelly.

March – From Across the Ocean

3/4/05 Waking Ned Devine. 1998. Comedy. Rated PG. Ian Bannen, David Kelly.

3/11/05 Billy Elliott. 2000. Drama. Rated R. Jamie Bell, Julie Walters.

3/18/05 Calendar Girls. 2003. Rated PG-13. Helen Mirren, Julie Walters

3/25/05 84 Charing Cross Road. 1986. Rated PG. Ann Bancroft, Anthony Hopkins



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Infobytes Editor – Ron Day

Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am – 9:00 pm

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

(Saturdays in Summer 9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Activities at the West Caldwell Public Library

The Friday Movie 2:00 pm

Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25

Read It! A Friendly Book Discussion Group 7:30 pm

Feb. 8 – Three Junes. Mar. 8 – Short History of a Prince

Beyond the Pages – An Afternoon of Entertainment 1:00 pm

Feb. 9 – Building the Brooklyn Bridge – Slide Show

Mar. 8 – Remember When Duo, Larry Weiss and Joe Licari

Evening Events – 7:30 pm

Feb. 28 – Author John T. Cunningham on New Jersey history

Mar. 7, 14 – Music Appreciation with Tully Williams

Health Education

Feb. 22 – 2:00-3:30 pm. Diet and Heart Health

Mar. 21 – 11:30 am-1:00 pm. A Nutritional Overview

West Caldwell Public Library Programs for Adults - February and March 2005

Beyond the Pages: An Afternoon of Entertainment

Showtime 1:00 pm

Wednesday, 2/9/05 Engineering Wonders – the History and Construction of the Brooklyn Bridge – a lecture and slide show by Sherman S. Price, PE.

Tuesday, 3/8/05 Remember When Duo – Larry Weiss and Joe Licari

Read It! A Friendly Book Discussion Group

Tuesday Evenings, 7:30 pm

Come to a lively book discussion club. Copies of the books are available at the Reference Desk.

2/8/05 Julia Glass. Three Junes.

3/8/05 Jane Hamilton. Short History of a Prince.

Meet the Author

Monday Evenings, 7:30 pm

Author lecture followed by book signing. Books available for sale in most instances

2/28/05 John T. Cunningham – Prolific author of books on New Jersey history

Health Education at the Library

Tuesday, February 22 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm - Diet and Heart Health with blood pressure screening. Presented by Mountainside Hospital.

Monday, March 21 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm - A Nutrition Overview with blood pressure Screening. Presented by Mountainside Hospital.

Evening Entertainment - 7:30 pm

Monday, 3/7/05 and Monday 3/14/05

Music Appreciation with Tully Williams

WWII Veterans Oral History Project

Thursday, February 3 at 2 pm

Thursday, March 3 at 2 pm