The West Caldwell Public Library is happy to introduce NextReads! NextReads is a free subscription e-mail service that provides book suggestions to both fiction and non-fiction readers. Choose from a wide variety of categories (ranging from Romance to Current Events) and receive e-mail newsletters with selected titles of great reads. The suggestions are more than just the recent best sellers—older gems are also included. Each title has been hand-selected by librarians and readers’ advisor specialists. The book titles link directly to the West Caldwell Library’s catalog where West Caldwell Public Library cardholders are able to reserve items immediately (please check with the staff to see if you’re eligible for this service).

Go to our webpage [http://westcaldwell.bccls.org](http://westcaldwell.bccls.org) to sign up and click on “NextReads.” Simply enter your name, e-mail address, and your library card number as your password. Check the boxes next to the categories that interest you, then click “subscribe.” Once you’ve signed up, you will receive a confirmation e-mail as well as the current issue of the newsletter(s) you selected. You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking on the “manage subscriptions” link at the bottom of the sign-up page. For questions about this service, please stop by the Reference Desk or call the Reference Department at 973-226-5441. For more personalized reading suggestions, you may also fill out a survey at the Reference Desk.

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**Available Newsletters:**
- Audiobooks
- Biography & Memoir
- Fiction A to Z
- Historical Fiction
- History & Current Events
- Mystery
- New Non-Fiction
- Romance
- Science Fiction
- Thrillers & Suspense

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**Book Launch Party**

Tuesday, February 20, 2007
7:00 pm

The West Caldwell Public Library would like to invite you to celebrate with us the book releases of two New Jersey poets. Diane Lockward will read from her latest book, *What Feeds Us* and Jessica deKoninck will read from her publication, *Repairs*. Books will be available for purchase and refreshments will be served. Join us for a pleasurable evening!

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**Wireless at the Library!**

The West Caldwell Public Library now provides free wireless Internet access points (“hotspots”) for users with portable computers or other devices capable of receiving wireless signals. No waiting and you can save your work on your own device!

This service is available anywhere in the library during regular operating hours. Please take the time to read the user’s policy at the Reference Desk.

To take advantage of the library’s wireless service, a patron only needs a laptop or Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) that has wireless connectivity. Most new laptops and PDAs already have wireless functionality, but others can easily be updated by installing an inexpensive adapter.

The Statewide Wireless Project is made possible in whole or part by funding to the NJ Library Network from the NJ State Legislature and the New Jersey State Library, an Affiliate of Thomas Edison State College, and Infolink, the Eastern NJ Regional Library Cooperative.
Statute of Two Children Reading on a Bench Purchased for the Library

Matthew and Jessica Day enjoy their new friends.

During the past year, Library Trustee President Marilyn Rubino thought about what she and her family wanted to be purchased for the library with the generous donations given by community members to the library in memory of her late husband, former Mayor Robert C. Rubino. She and her family members wanted something lasting and enduring. They also wanted something that could be housed or used in the library’s Children’s Department. Staff member, Gail Holubowich, saw the statue in the Garden Cottage located on Passaic Avenue and suggested this possible purchase to Mrs. Rubino. And after much consideration, this special statue of two children reading on a bench was selected.

Since its arrival in November, children and adults have given the statue rave reviews. A day never goes by without some interaction between “real” children and the bronze children. Young and small children sit on the bench with the bronze children. Some talk to the two bronze children. One little girl even named them and another child kissed one of the bronze children. Parents even have taken pictures of their children sitting on the bench.

And you might wonder what the bronze children are reading? Not a book by Dr. Suess. Not Winnie the Pooh. And not Treasure Island or Little Women but Tarzan.

Mrs. Rubino is extremely pleased with the placement of the statue and all the excitement surrounding it. “The combination of children, books and reading make it a perfect and most appropriate addition to the Children’s Department,” she stated. “We are extremely pleased with our selection and wish to again thank everyone in the community who made this special purchase a reality.”

“I couldn’t think of a better way to use the memorial donations,” said library director April Judge. “It creates a stellar focal point as you walk into the Children’s Department and the children, parents and grandparents alike love the new statue!”

From the President

We are starting off 2007 with a new member on our executive board – Audrey Ott. She recently served as our decoration chairman for our very successful “Oktoberfest” evening at the library. Welcome Audrey!

Audrey replaces Mark Cohen who served on the executive board from January 2003 through December 2006, first as a member-at-large and later as vice president and membership chairman. Thank you Mark for your four years of service to the Friends. Mark will continue his volunteer activities at the West Caldwell Library as an instructor for the English Conversation Group that meets every Monday night.

This year we had some very exciting programs that were co-sponsored by the Friends and the Historical Society of West Caldwell. We had record turnouts for programs about the Horseneck Riots, the Passaic River, the Morris Canal and the Caldwell Trolley. We expect to have additional events with the Historical Society later in the spring.

Also this year, our Local History/Genealogy steering committee was active. Our major accomplishment this fall was the presentation of a seven week genealogy workshop which was sponsored by the West Caldwell Library, the Friends of the Library and the Historical Society. It was very well attended and we hope to continue with follow-up programs in 2007.

January is the time to renew your membership in the Friends. Our membership reached a milestone this year when we passed the 200 mark and ended up with 211 paid memberships at the end of 2006. Additional information and an application form are elsewhere in this newsletter. Membership entitles you to the quarterly newsletter, InfoBytes, as well as other periodic mailings listing special events. Members are also eligible to receive a 20% discount on all in-stock books at Book World in West Caldwell (sale items not included).

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Friends in 2006. Let’s make 2007 an even better year.

- Ron Day
Greetings from the Director

As we look forward to a new year filled with many new ideas for new services, programs and possible additional open hours; we must remember the importance of the book. I am an avid reader and hope that in your busy, sometimes hectic lives you have the time to select an interesting looking book from our shelves and find the time to delight in the written word.

In 1998, the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library started a citywide book club. The book selected for everyone in Seattle to read and discuss was Russell Banks’s The Sweet Hereafter. Based on the success of this major event, many cities and states throughout the country have sponsored large-scale book discussion programs.

This year, the Library will be jumping on the bandwagon by featuring the One Book BCCLS title, Pride and Prejudice, written by Jane Austen, at its Tuesday, January 9 book discussion program. Connie Paul, a Jane Austen aficionado, enthusiast and scholar, will present an overview of Austen’s life and lead the book discussion. And on Tuesday, March 13 the book discussion group will discuss this year’s One Book New Jersey title, Their Eyes Were Watching God, written by Zora Neale Hurston.

And although the book has not been selected for any local One Book program that I’m aware of, we are delighted to have author Judith Lindbergh lead the discussion of her novel, The Thrall’s Tale, on Tuesday, February 13.

All book discussion programs begin at 7:30 pm. And books are available at the Reference Desk.

At this time of year, many magazines, newspaper and literary and library organizations announce their favorite or best books of the past year. Here are some of the staff’s favorite books published in 2006.

The Year of the Magical Thinking - Joan Didion
My Latest Grievance - Elinor Lipman
Thirteen Moons - Charles Frazier
What Caroline Knew - Caryn James
Gatsby’s Girl - Caroline Preston

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year filled with all the joys of reading!

- April Judge

Know Your Library Staff

Barbara Paterson, Library Assistant

Barbara was born in Newark NJ. She graduated from Vailsburg High School and went on to graduate from Newark State College with a degree in Fine Arts Education. Upon graduation, with a shortage of positions in the education field, Barbara was offered a job at South Mountain Laboratories where she had been working part time while attending college. While working there she returned to school to obtain her degree in Biology and went on to work at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals.

During a summer trip to Scotland Barbara met her future husband, Alan. They married two years later and after the birth of their daughter, Barbara returned to work part time as Quality Control Auditor and then onto Aventis where she worked for six years as a Quality Assurance Officer.

At loose ends after the relocation of her department Barbara began working at the West Caldwell Public Library in September 2003.

Barbara works at the circulation desk and is also responsible for the periodicals and standing orders.

Barbara and her husband Alan live in West Caldwell and have one beautiful daughter, Susie (a former WCPL page) who is attending Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Barbara spends her spare time reading and also works part time at Weight Watchers as a receptionist.

Low Vision Magnifier

The West Caldwell Public Library is pleased to offer the use of a Low Vision Magnifier to patrons with visual impairments. This is provided thanks to a generous donation by the Lions Club of West Essex. The magnifier, a Telesensory Aladdin Rainbow Pro, takes printed materials that would be difficult or even impossible to read and makes them accessible again, with up to 50X magnification both in color and black and white. It works equally well for text and for pictures. The machine is simple to use, has a 14-inch monitor, and is available whenever the library is open. For more information, please contact the Reference Department: 973-226-5441.
Not a Member of the Friends? Consider Joining

Already a Member – Renew Now

Who are the Friends? We are a group of local citizens brought together by a love of libraries. The organization is dedicated to generating increased awareness in the community of the extensive resources of our facility and to support the library in all its endeavors.

Why should you be a member? The Friends provide support by means of their dues and fundraising events, and by volunteer efforts such as providing refreshments for the Friday afternoon movies and other meeting room events. Other volunteer opportunities include work in the Local History and Genealogy Room, Adopt-a-Shelf, publicity, and special projects.

As a member, you will receive the quarterly InfoBytes Newsletter as well as periodic mailings listing the planned library events in the Community Meeting Room. Although all library events are open to the public, becoming a member assures you of timely notification of the events (important for such events such as the Genealogy Workshop which was oversubscribed and had to be closed out).

Members are also eligible to receive a 20% discount on all in-stock books at Book World in West Caldwell (except sale items).

In 2006, we had a membership of 211 families and raised about $6800. The much of this money was used to fund programs in the meeting room for both children and adults. One other major expense was for new ruggedized plastic cases for 2000 audio CD’s. We previously had replaced the cases on the video DVD collection in 2005. We also funded the $800 cost of the 7-session genealogy workshop. Other expenses were for meeting room refreshments, for staff educational grants and Library publicity (InfoBytes, postage and flyers).

Also this year, the Friends sponsored an International Night Fundraiser at the Library featuring German cuisine. We plan to repeat this hugely successful night next October (cuisine to be announced).

Membership in the Friends runs from January to December of each year. New members joining after October 1st are automatically renewed for the following year at no additional cost. Your dues and support of our fundraising activities provide the funds to continue our support of the library. We need your help. Whether you are joining for the first time or renewing your membership, please consider joining as a “Library Lover” or higher level to give us additional funds to support the library. Also, please indicate if you would like to volunteer some of your time to help the library.

Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library
30 Clinton Road, West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Membership Application

Yes, I want to be a Friend! Enclosed is my annual contribution with a check payable to the Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library and mailed to the above address.

___ New Member      ___ Renewal        Date: ________________
Name: ______________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
Telephone: _________________ E-mail:  __________________

__ Individual/family $10.00                   __ Library Lover $25.00
__ Bookworm $50.00                           __ Bibliophile $100.00

__ Yes, I would like to volunteer my time to help the Friends of the Library.
__ Yes, my employer has a “matching grant” program. Please complete and return the enclosed employer form.

The Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
Your contributions are tax deductible.
English Conversation Group
Monday Evenings at 6:30 pm

Back by popular demand! Beginning Monday, February 5th, our conversation group for those with English as a second language will meet again. All levels, ages, and nationalities are welcome! The group will meet each Monday evening beginning February 5, 2007 at 6:30 pm.

Please call the reference Department to register: 973-226-5441.

Unlock the Power of Your PIN

With a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the West Caldwell Library, you have the power to do the following from your home computer:

- View your account online 24/7
- See what you have out
- Check due dates
- Renew items that can be renewed
- Track the status of your requests
- Find out if you owe fees or fines
- Add or edit your e-mail address
- Set overdue / pre-overdue e-mail notification preferences
- “Forget Your PIN?” Have it e-mailed to you

It’s easy to get a PIN. Just ask for one at the Circulation Desk. Then click on “Your Library Card” on the BCCLS homepage (www.bccls.org).

Friends Executive Board Members - 2007

President Ron Day
Vice President Phil Hessinger
Treasurer Lila Rubin
Corresponding Secretary Alice Gibson
Recording Secretary Laverne Nelson
Member-at-Large Dorie Frey
Member-at-Large Audrey Ott
Member-at-Large Mary Lindgren
Immediate Past President Polly Payne
Library Director April L. Judge
Committee Chairmen

Hospitality Olga Reiher
Books-to-Go Rozz Rusinow

Local History Corner

Have you visited the Library’s Local History and Genealogy Room lately? There you will find a lot of interesting material about West Caldwell and vicinity including the book Celebrating a Centennial – A History of West Caldwell, NJ which was published in 2005 by the West Caldwell Centennial Committee. One of the interesting historical notes in the book:

Are We A Borough or a Township?

West Caldwell was organized as a borough in 1904 and for 77 years was known as the Borough of West Caldwell. However, since 1981 we have been called the Township of West Caldwell. Why?

Well, it had to do with money. Back in the early 1980’s, there was a Federal revenue sharing program that distributed funds to local municipalities. The funding formula was designed so that in some cases, townships would receive more money than cities, boroughs, towns and villages.

In the early 1980’s, 15 municipalities in Essex County changed their name so that the word “township” appeared in their official names. The federal government had considered, and still does consider, townships as different from other types of municipalities.

On September 15, 1981, a special election was held in West Caldwell and the name change was approved. For the next several years, West Caldwell received about $100,000 additional revenue sharing funding just because it now was a “township.” Of course, all good things must end and the revenue program was terminated in 1986.

Of the 15 Essex County municipalities that changed their name to township, five were boroughs while most of the others were organized under the Optional Municipal Charter Law (OMCL). With the loss of revenue sharing, four of the five boroughs reverted back to their original names. Most of the OMCL towns such as Montclair, Verona, Fairfield, West Orange and Bloomfield kept their “township” name.

Apparently, West Caldwell holds the unique distinction of being the only “township” in the state of New Jersey that was chartered under the old borough act of 1891.
Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library
30 Clinton Road • West Caldwell, NJ 07006
973-226-5441 • http://westcaldwell.bccls.org

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)

English Conversation Group – Mondays at 6:30 pm
(starting February 5)

Book Discussion Group – 7:30 pm
January 9 – Pride and Prejudice
February 13 – The Thrall’s Tale
March 13 – Their Eyes Were Watching God

Book Launch Party – February 20 – 7:00 pm

Veterans Oral History Project – 2nd & 4th Thurs. at 2 pm

Your 24 Hour Library
http://westcaldwell.bccls.org

Even after hours, the West Caldwell Public Library is open! Go to the databases on our website to find complete magazine and newspaper articles, encyclopedia entries, biographies, photos, maps, and even a dictionary. You can print out articles or e-mail them to yourself or a friend. Whether you’re looking up health information, researching a school project, or trying to find an old newspaper article, all of these are available at your fingertips with your West Caldwell Public Library card.

To begin, just go to: http://westcaldwell.bccls.org. In the center of the page, click where it says “Online Magazines, Newspapers, and Subscription Databases.” Your library card number will act as your password. Try EBSCO, Infotrac, and Proquest for access to thousands of publications! For a demonstration of our online databases, drop by the Reference Desk. We’ll be happy to get you started!

Time to Renew your Friends Membership

Friday Afternoon at the Movies
Showtime 1:00 pm

January 2007

Jan. 5: All the King’s Men (2006, PG-13) 90 min.

February 2007

Feb. 16: Bride and Prejudice (2004, PG-13) 111 min

March 2007

Mar. 2: Glory Road (2006, PG) 106 min.