



NBPL NEWS

"The True University of these Days is a Collection of Books"

Thomas Carlyle



Library of the New Britain Institute, New Britain, Conn.

New Britain Public Library
EST. 1853

Words from our Director

I am sure you have heard it before – I know I say it every chance I get. Libraries save people money. But have you ever wondered how much it saves you? There is a value usage calculator at <http://ilovelibraries.org>. Search for library value calculator. This calculator will show you just how much you save when you use the library.

It uses the average cost of items that are available at libraries. For instance, if I were to borrow 2 books, 2 DVDs, use a computer for an hour, read a newspaper, read a couple of magazines and research my family tree in the Ancestry database, this use would calculate to \$93.54. That's just for the use of one person at one time. We had almost 400,000 library visits last year and many visitors use the library a few times a month and some several times a week. Just imagine the savings there.

The majority of our funding comes from tax revenues from the City of New Britain and the remainder from our fundraising. Last year, tax dollars given to our library was 1.3% of the total tax revenue of the city. The number of books the city could buy with this money (at an average cost of \$20.00 per item) would be 143,175. The number of items people borrowed from the library was over 396,000. I'd say money well spent.

The average town tax appropriation per person for libraries with populations over 50,000 is \$45.82 per person. In New Britain, it is lower - \$40.75 per person. We are very careful how we spend our money. We squeeze every penny from our dollars, yet, look at all residents can get when they use our library – a definite bargain.

Pat Rutkowski, Director

Library Closing

Mon. Feb. 20

Presidents' Day

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Are you looking for a fun place for your family to spend some time on a cold winter day? On Saturday, February 4, **Take Your Child to the Library Day** is being celebrated in libraries all over Connecticut. Drop in and check out what's happening in the Children's Department. Children can make crafts, enjoy stories, check out books, and get free giveaways. There will be a special appearance by Rocky, mascot of the New Britain Rock Cats at 2 pm, along with a storytime for all ages.



Adult Programs for February

First Friday Film

Fri. Feb 3, 1 pm

White Fang featuring Ethan Hawke is based on Jack London's classic book about the friendship between a Yukon gold hunter and the mixed dog-wolf he rescues.



Nzinga's Daughters

Sat. Feb. 18, 2 pm

Children's Room.

Women of Song, Story, and Prose. Nzinga's Daughters have developed a theme around the Underground Railroad and through poetry, stories and song they reveal coded messages that were hidden in the Negro spirituals and everyday objects. A program for all ages.



Open Mike Poetry Reading

Sat. Feb. 4, 2-4 pm Community Room.
Bring two poems to share. Ages 16 +



Adult Programs continued

Valentine's Day Film

Tues. Feb. 14, noon Community Room.

Random Harvest is about an amnesiac WW I vet who falls in love with a music hall star, only to suffer an accident which restores his original memories but erases his post-war life.



Book Discussion Group

Tues. Feb. 21, 7 pm Community Room.

The Book Discussion Group will meet and discuss **Emperors of Chocolate: Inside the Secret World of Hershey and Mars** by Joel Brenner. *New members always welcome. Copies available at Check Out Desk.*



Senior Book Discussion Group

Tues. Feb. 21, 1 pm

New Britain Senior Center.

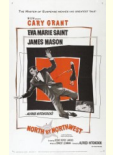
The book is **Dewey: The Small Town Library Cat Who Touched the World** by Vicki Myron.



Movie Matinee

Wed. Feb. 29, noon Community Room.

North By Northwest starring Cary Grant is a Hitchcock classic about a hapless advertising executive who is mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies. Bring your lunch—we'll provide dessert and beverages.



The Bookmark Lady

If you have been lucky enough to find a basket full of beautiful handcrafted bookmarks at the Check Out desk, you can thank Esther Chamberland. Working three jobs didn't leave much time for reading. Once she retired, she began to visit and borrow books on a regular basis.

One day she overheard another patron asking if we had any bookmarks. Esther remembered that she had boxes of greeting cards packed away at home, because she could never bear to throw them out. These could be crafted into bookmarks for library patrons. Once she started, she couldn't stop! She loves doing it because it keeps her busy, it contributes to the library, and she loves to see the joy on people's faces when they choose a beautiful bookmark. If it prevents the corners of library books from being turned down as a place holder, then that is an extra benefit!

Esther's bookmarks are a gift from the heart, she loves making them as much as patrons love receiving them. As long as she has greeting cards, glue & colored paper, she'll be sharing her gift with us.



Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — Day of Service



On January 16, students from New Britain High School and E.C. Goodwin Technical School took time from their day off to participate in a Day of Service to honor Martin Luther King Jr. by making a difference in their community. Several students gathered at Community Central to make bookmarks commemorating Dr. King with his quotes. The group donated these creative and crafty bookmarks which are available for library users at the Check Out Desk. A story of their day of activities can be read in the New Britain Herald's January 17 issue.

Children's Department

Terrific Tots

Mon. Feb. 6, 13, & 27, 10 am

Storytime for children ages 2½-3½, and their parents or caregivers. Activities include stories, a simple craft or short movie, and time to play with library toys at the end of the program.

Super Kids

Wed. Feb. 1, 8, 15, & 22, & 29, 10 am

Storytime for children ages 3-5. Stories, finger plays, songs, and a craft or short film.

Family Story Hour

Thurs. Feb. 2, 16, & 23, 6:30 pm

Storytime for children ages 3-8. Stories and short film.

Time for Tots

Fri. Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 10-11:30 am

Storytime and time to play with toys for children under 3 years accompanied by parent/caregiver.

Special Programs

Take Your Child To the Library Day: Saturday Feb. 4

Join us for this day for the whole family! Register your child for a library card, enjoy activities, share some stories, and check out some books. Free giveaways. Everyone welcome!



Valentine Story/Craft

Thurs. Feb. 9, 6:30 pm

Come make a valentine craft. Ages 3-8 accompanied by an adult.



Let's Talk Reading Party

Mon. Feb. 13, 2:30 pm

For parents of infants and toddlers.

Learn to use books as tools for talking with your children.

Free book and other materials.

For information call 860-224-3155 ext. 121.



No registration for programs unless noted.

Staff Ugly Sweater Contest

In February we are going to chase away the winter doldrums with a staff ugly sweater contest. We invite you to be the judge. The contest kicks off on Feb 1. Staff will sport their lovely ugly sweaters on that day. Pictures will be taken and posted for all to see for the next two weeks. Vote for your favorite sweater from February 1 through noon, February 14. The winner will be announced later in the day. Staff participants will be contributing items to a food drive we are doing for a local food pantry. Come join in the fun. Wear your ugly sweater. Help us pick out the ugliest sweater and support a local food pantry by donating needed foods.



Friends of NBPL



February brings longer days and the promise of Spring around the corner. The Friends are already busy planning for our big Spring Book Sale (April 12-14 with a preview on April 11). More details will be available in March. We are now accepting gently used books for the sale. Your donated books can be left inside the double doors at the parking lot level.

The Every Day Book Sale special categories for February celebrate Black History Month with both fiction and non-fiction by or about African Americans and Presidents Day with books by or about American presidents. Debbie Macomber is the author of the month.

Hours & Locations

Main Library

20 High Street
(860) 224-3155

Monday-Thursday
9 am-9 pm
Friday
9 am-5 pm
Saturday
9 am-5 pm

Children's Dept.

Monday-Thursday
9 am-8 pm
Friday
9 am-5 pm
Saturday
9 am-5pm

Teen Room

Monday-Wednesday
2 pm-8 pm
Thursday
1 pm-8 pm
Friday
2 pm- 5 pm
Saturday
12 noon- 5 pm

Jefferson Branch

140 Horse Plain Road
(860) 225-4700
Monday & Tuesday
9 am-6 pm
Wednesday & Thursday
9 am-5 pm
Friday
9 am-3 pm

Benjamin Franklin School paintings

In the 1930's and 1940's, teachers and students from the Benjamin Franklin School worked on six paintings depicting scenes from popular children's stories. Small groups of students and one teacher worked on each painting. The paintings were on display in the school auditorium until the building was closed in 1975. After that, they were in storage for over 25 years. In the upcoming months, we will feature a painting and give information about the artists and scene.

We have limited information on the next painting in the series. The Goose Girl was painted circa 1935. The only artist listed is John Sztaba. This featured painting and all the other paintings can be seen in the Children's Department.



On Display @ the Main Library

Hall Case

Sign Up For New Britain Adult
Education Classes!

New Britain Adult Education

Front Case

Gospel in New Britain

James Dorsey

Free Computer Classes

**Now held in the Community Room (Ground Floor)
unless otherwise noted.**

Call 860-224-3155 ext. 125 to make a reservation.

Mouse Tutorial Fri. Feb. 3, 10-11 am (Computer Center)

Intro to Computers Sat. Feb. 4, 9:30-11 am

Art of Networking (Labor Dept.) Tues. Feb. 7, 9:30-12 pm

PowerPoint Basics Tues. Feb. 7, 6:30-8 pm

E-mail Basics Wed. Feb. 15, 9:30-11 am

Intro to Word Wed. Feb. 29, 9:30-11 am



Editor: Pat Rutkowski, Director

Layout Design: Jason Villani