The Port Washington Public Control of the Control o

A monthly guide to your community library, its programs and services

Issue No. 264, April 2011





Authors, authors everywhere

April 6 at 7:30 p.m. — Rachael Bermingham and Kim McCosker: 4 Ingredients (Atria Books, April 2011). The Australian natives have stunned the culinary world with their cookbook, which, to date has sold over two million copies and consistently sits near the top of the bestsellers lists in both Australia and the UK. Atria Books is bringing the book to busy Americans with the U.S. publication of 4 Ingredients: More Than 400 Quick, Easy, and Delicious Recipes Using 4 or Fewer Ingredients.

April 11 at 3 p.m. — Conor Grennan: Little Princes (HarperCollins, February 2011). So as not to seem completely self-indulgent, Conor started his year-long trip around the world with a three-month stint volunteering in the Little Princes Orphanage in war-torn Nepal. What began as a cover story changed Conor's life, and the lives of countless others, forever. Conor learned the horrifying truth that many of the little princes were not orphans at all, but children who had been taken from their homes by child traffickers.

April 12 at 7:30 p.m. — May Pang: Instamatic Karma: Photographs of John Lennon (St. Martin's Press, 2008). John Lennon is the most famously photographed Beatle — everyone from Iain MacMillan to Annie Leibovitz took iconic images of him — but there have never been pictures like the ones taken by May Pang, Lennon's girlfriend from 1973 to 1975. Pang has written rich captions to accompany her photos, and together they tell a simple story of the time May and Lennon spent together, sanctioned by Yoko Ono.

April 29 at 3 p.m. — Cathleen Schine: The Three Weissmanns of Westport (Picador Press Paperback Edition, 2011). Ms. Schine has written a funny and on-target tale of three women starting over in their lives. Rarely in fiction is one of the heroines a 75-year-old woman who is being dumped by her husband of five decades. The title refers to Mrs. Weissmann and her two daughters, forced to live together because of various dire financial circumstances. "Schine's homage to Jane Austen has it all. . ." — The New York Times Book Review.

Books will be available for purchase and signing at each event. The programs are sponsored by the Friends of the





April holidayThe library will be closed Sunday, April 24 in observance of Easter.

FOL Paperback Swap Join the Friends of the Library on Sat-

urday, April 2 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Library Budget Vote & Trustee Election

The vote takes place Tuesday, April 12 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. See page two for details.

Author Jane Zalben

Meet Port resident Jane Breskin Zalben, and discuss her latest book Four Seasons on April 21. This program is for ages 11 to 13, as well as adults. Story on Library Kids page.

Breast Cancer forum

Innovations in Breast Cancer Diagnosis & Treatment takes place April 27 at 7:30 p.m. Story inside.

FOL Luncheon

The Friends of the Library Book & Author Luncheon is May 13. Featured authors are Carlos Eire and Meg Wolitzer. Story inside.

Children's Re-design

Watch for our survey in April about a future design for the Children's Library. Go to pwpl.org to view the design and then share your reactions through our on-line survey.



An exhibition of Latino artwork will hang in the Community Gallery throughout the month. Join us for a celebration of Latino culture on May 1. Above: Brooklyn Bridge by Raymond Gomez.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012

	Proposed	2011	2010
REVENUES	2012 <u>Budget</u> -	Budget _	Budget
	0.570.000	6 514 400	6 204 100
Real Property Taxes Payments in Lieu of Taxes	6,576,939	6,514,482 30,000	6,394,109 30,000
Interest	40,000 10,000	13,000	13,000
Other Local Revenue	84,150	89,400	89,400
State Sources	4,000	4.000	4,000
Total Revenues	6,715,089	6,650,882	6,530,509
Appropriated			
Designated for ERS	25,000	25,000	-
Undesignated Fund Balance	50,000	75,000	25,000
Total Revenues & App. Fund Balance	6,790,089	6,750,882	6,555,509
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES, TERMINAL LEAVE & EM- PLOYEE BENEFITS			
Salaries	3,368,290	3,470,720	3,415,830
Terminal Leave	3,300,290	-	10,000
Employee Benefits — Retirement	516,683	375,484	237,069
Employee Benefits — Other	929,852	901,298	860,389
MTA Tax	11,452	-	-
Subtotal — Salaries, Terminal Leave Accru-	4,826,277	4,747,502	4,523,288
als & Employee Benefits			
LIBRARY MATERIALS	56,000	85,000	85,000
Books - Fiction	80,000	88,000	88,000
Books - Non-fiction	78,000	82,000	90,000
Books - Reference	55,000	60,000	60,000
Books - Children's & Young Adult	40,000	40,000	40,000
Books - Audio & Electronic	61,000	61,000	61,000
Software & Online Databases Periodicals	50,000	50,000	50,000
Media — DVD/CD	57,000	57,000	57,000
Subtotal — Library Materials	477,000	523,000	531,000
LIBRARY OPERATIONS			
Office & Library Supplies	52.700	52,700	52,700
Telephone	29,000	29,000	29,000
Postage & Freight	30,000	30,000	30,000
Printing	34,500	34,500	27,500
Staff Conference & Training	12,000	12,000	12,000
ALIS	70,512	68,000	65,000
Program Services Memberships	46,500	46,500	43,500
Maint. Office Equipment	2,000	4,000	4,000
Accounting/Legal	29,200	28,900	28,900
Security Service	99,320	99,225	99,225
Computer Service	26,367	26,000	25,000
General	53,040	48,000	48,000
Subtotal — Library Operations	5,900	5,900 <u>484,725</u>	5,900 470,725
BUILDING OPERATIONS	491,039	<u> 404,723</u> _	470,723
Fuel & Utilities	195,736	190,000	205,352
Custodial	98,200	98,200	101,200
Insurance	70,282	70,500	70,500
Subtotal — Building Operations	364,218	358,700	377,052
Subtotal Expenditures	6,158,534	6,113,927	5,902,065
EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS & TRANSFERS	40.000	40.000	40.000
Equipment	40,000	40,000	40,000
Repairs & Alterations	75,000	75,000	75,000
Transfers to Capital Subtotal — Equip., Repairs & Transfers		115,000	115,000
DEBT SERVICE Bonds — Principal & Intercet	516,555	521,955	526,505
Bonds — Principal & Interest	310,333	-	11,939
Installment Debt — Principal & Interest Subtotal — Debt Service			11,000
Principal & Interest	<u>516,555</u> -	521,955	538,444
		,	
Total Expenditures	6,790,089	6,750,882	6,555,509
Tay I avv Increase	0.96%		
Tax Levy Increase			
Budget Increase	0.58%		

Additional Information: Detailed financial statements are available through the Director's Office

Technology "help sessions"

Throughout April, reference librarians will offer mini-workshops in making the most of the library's technologies.

On Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m.,



Librarian Keith Klang demonstrates the Scan Station

bring us your research puzzlers. We'll provide tutorials in searching our databases.

Wednesdays sessions, also from 7 to 9 p.m., will be devoted to the library's scan station and assisting with your e-reader.

Scan Station enables users to scan documents and save to a USB drive, share information via the Internet or e-mail. You can quickly back up family photos or documents, or share information on a social media site.

If you have a Nook, Sony Reader or other compatible device (including the iProducts), join us on Wednesday nights for tips on getting the books you've reserved and downloaded at www.pwpl.org loaded onto your device.

From the director's office

Now more than ever, the library provides a tremendous variety of services, both within the building and at home, school or at work through our website. For many people, their first thought when thinking about the library is "books," but in fact we are so much more.

I stood behind the lobby desk one afternoon to see what kinds of things people asked for. In addition to books, library patrons wanted movies and music, notary service, scanners, computers, wifi for their laptops, fax service and copiers, and just a place to work.

I started to make a mental list of all of the other services we provide and the list became quite long. We offer career coaching, online tutoring, museum passes, concerts, lectures, art exhibitions, family and children's programs, meeting space, computer classes, ESOL classes, teen workshops, discussion groups, book discussions for adults with intellectual disabilities, and the list goes on.

Because people have different learning styles, the library is an ideal venue for everyone. Those on the go can access our free online databases and download free e-books from our website; others who prefer collaborative learning can work together in spaces we've recently created around the building. If solitude is more your style, the quiet study rooms in the reference room are available to you.

The library welcomes all members of the Port Washington community and we hope that you think of us as your living room away from home.

We strive to reduce costs wherever possible without diminishing our services. We are fortunate that the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation partner with us to make this happen.

Please remember to vote on April 12 and thank you for the support you've always shown us.

Nancy Curtin, Library Director

Coming in May

MAY 1: Latino Celebration featuring an exhibit of paintings, food tastings, a film program and a display of Peruvian Nobel Prize-winning writer Mario Vargas Llosa's writings. This celebration is in conjunction with Landmark on Main Street. The Children's Center and the Parent Resource Center will organize crafts for children and there will be a music program at the Landmark. See next month's issue for complete details.

MAY 2: Running Your Own Business. Registration begins April 12. Story inside.

MAY 5: Musician/writer Neil Innes (Monty Python, The Rutles, Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band) joins us for a night of music and storytelling.

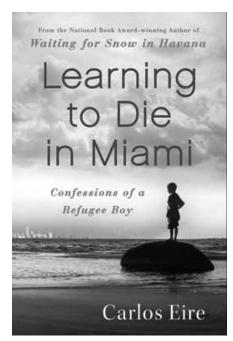
MAY 6: Author Marc Eliot discusses his book *Paul Simon: A Life*. Music by Stu Markus.

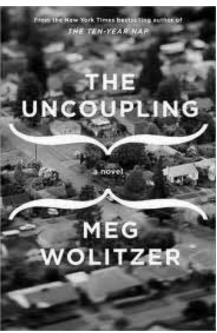


Giardino di Filie, oil, 7' x 12', 1985

Catchi exhibits Happy Days in Tuscany

Catherine Childs (Catchi) has been a part of the library family since 1970. She recently "retired" from the Art Advisory Council after more than 40 years of volunteer service to the library and the community. Catchi has been painting for over 70 years. She studied with Hans Hoffman and Leon Kroll and has received grants to work at the Vermont Studio Center. She is a past president of the National Association of Women Artists and is listed in *Who's Who in American Art*. She has a distinguished exhibit history in notable New York galleries as well as the Royal Academy of London. Her exhibit *Happy Days in Tuscany* will hang in the Main Gallery April 1 through May 1. Now living in Vermont, Catchi will visit the library on April 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. for a reception in her honor, hosted by the Art Advisory Council.





FOL announces lineup for Book & Author Luncheon

The Friends of the Library annual Book & Author Luncheon takes place on Friday, May 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse at Harbor Links. Featured authors are Carlos Eire and Meg Wolitzer. Registration information will be available in the library this month.

Carlos Eire, National Book Award winner for his memoir *Waiting for Snow in Havana*, will speak on his new memoir of growing up a Cuban exile in the United States, *Learning to Die in Miami: Confessions of a Refugee Boy* (Simon & Schuster).

The year is 1962 and Carlos and his older brother, Tony, are fleeing along with 14,000 other children from "Castrolandia." They are not only refugees, but also orphans — both of their parents are stuck in Cuba, unable to get out of the country legally. It will take years for their mother to make her way into the United States, but Carlos will never see his father again.

Flashing back and forth between past and future, we watch as Carlos balances the divide between his past and present homes and finds his way in this strange new world, one that seems to hold the exhilarating promise of infinite possibilities, and one that he will eventually claim as his own. Novelist Meg Wolitzer, author of *The New York Times* bestseller *The Ten-Year Nap*, will speak on her new novel *The Uncoupling* (Riverhead Books).

When a new drama teacher in a suburban high school puts on a production of *Lysistrata* (the Aristophanes play in which the women of ancient Greece go on a sex strike against men until a war ends), the women and girls of the school community find that they have been placed under a kind of "spell" — and that their own feelings toward the males in their lives have changed drastically, and perhaps irrevocably, overnight.

Wolitzer writes of this puzzling phenomenon, the "women who had suddenly risen up from long, happy relationships and inexplicably said no." While the rehearsals continue through a dark, cold winter, the drama developing around town more than matches what is being prepared for onstage. But when the curtain at last goes up, a series of unexpected, hilarious, and touching events bring both the play and Wolitzer's story to a cathartic, enlightening close.

We hope that our descriptions have sparked your interest in these two authors and in the Book & Author Luncheon.

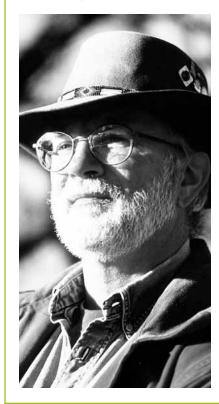
Bill Staines in Jean Ritchie Folk Concert

Anyone not familiar with the music of Bill Staines is in for a special treat when the Music Advisory Council welcomes the singer to our stage on Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m. to perform in the Annual Jean Ritchie Folk Concert.

Bill has traveled North America, singing his songs and delighting audiences at festivals, folk societies, colleges, concerts, clubs and coffeehouses. A New England native, Bill became involved with the Boston-Cambridge folk scene in the early 1960s and for a time emceed the Sunday Hootenanny at the legendary Club 47 in Cambridge.

Well into his fifth decade as a folk performer, Bill has gained an international reputation as a gifted songwriter and performer. You may have heard him on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion, on HBO's award winning series Deadwood, or on Public Radio's Mountain Stage. His music has been used in a number of films, and he has recorded 26 albums, 2 of which were winners of the prestigious Parents' Choice Award. His songs have been recorded by Peter, Paul, and Mary, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy, The Highwaymen, Mason Williams, Grandpa Jones, Jerry Jeff Walker, Nanci Griffith, Glen Yarborough and others. His song All God's Critters is a Simon and Schuster children's book with illustrations by Caldecott honorwinning artist Kadir Nelson.

Music Adivsory Council concerts are privately funded by donations to the Port Washington Library Foundation.



April Library Kids

Welcome to the page for Children's Services. Be sure to look here for upcoming exhibits, programs and articles relating to Children's Services and the Parenting Information Center. Parents: Please comply with the age guidelines for these programs and be prepared to show proof of local residency.

Great Library Card Adventure

In collaboration with the elementary schools of Port Washington, Children's Services presents the Ninth Annual "Great Library Card Adventure." Throughout the month, children in grades K through 5 are invited to visit the Children's Room and help win books for their school libraries. Present your library card (or library card application) at the Children's Services desk and participate in a 20-minute scavenger hunt. Each child that plays will receive a gift (while supplies last). The grade that has the most participants will be the winner! Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Port Washington Public Library.



Parenting with Lenore Skenazy & Dana Friedman

Lenore Skenazy will be interviewed by Dana Friedman in a Conversation from Main Street on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. Leonore Skenazy is the author of *Free Range Kids: How to Raise Safe, Self-reliant Children*. She is also a newspaper columnist. Dana Friedman is founder of the Early Years Institute and a nationally recognized researcher and policy analyst for children, family and women's issues.

Note: This program, which is co-sponsored by the library, Child Care Council of Nassau and Port Washington Child Care Partnership, will take place at the Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street.

Kindergarten Through Sixth Grade

To register and/or inquire about availability for the following programs, please call Children's Services at 883-4400, Ext.150.

Let's Tell a Story: Six Saturdays, April 2, 9, 30 & May 7, 14, 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. Children in 5th and 6th grades are invited to join local resident Elise May to learn the art of storytelling. Each week participants will choose from a selection of themes and create their own story as well as a collaborative story. Students will share their work. Some of the stories will be dramatized in the final session in which family members and friends are invited. Find your voice and learn to use it! *Call for availability*. Cosponsored by the Blumenfeld Family Fund.

Book Bunch: Thursday, April 28 at 4 p.m. Book discussion for children in grades 3 and 4. *Call for availability*.

Page Turners: Tuesday, April 26 at 7:15 p.m. Book discussion for children in grades 5 and 6. *Call for availability*.

Vacation Programs

The following programs are co-sponsored by the Children's Advisory Council, which is privately funded by donations to the Port Washington Library Foundation. *Tickets are required for both shows and will be available in the Children's Room beginning April 11.*

World of Wonder: Wednesday, April 20 at 2:30 p.m. Enter the spectacular world of multi-talented theater artist Leland Faulkner, as he explores characters, magic and stories from cultures around the globe. For children in grades 1 and up with an adult.

"Dizzy-Morocco-Cha-Cha:" Thursday, April 21 at 11 a.m. Join musicians Napoleon Revels–Bey and the Rhythm Kings for "Al-Andalusia to Dizzy," their award winning fun rhythmic twist of Afro-Cuban music with dance styles from Africa, North and South America and Europe. For children in grades K and up with an adult.

Early Childhood

To register and/or inquire about availability for the following programs, please call Children's Services at 883-4400, Ext.150.

April Showers Craft: Monday, April 4 at 12 noon or 1 p.m. A seasonal craft, stories and songs. Ages 2½ to 5 with an adult. *Registration began March 28 – call for availability*.

Toddler Story Time: Tuesdays at 10 or 11 a.m. For children ages $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ with an adult. *Registration not required.* Ends April 12.

Mother Goose Rhyme Time: For children ages birth to 17 months with an adult – siblings welcome. Session III – April 7, 14, 28. *Registration began in January - call for availability.* Does not meet April 21.

Preschool Story Time: Fridays at 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. For children ages 3½ to 5 without an adult. *Registration not required*. Ends April 15.

Hands On Music: Monday, April 11 at 12 noon or 1 p.m. Music, stories and songs. For ages 18 months to 5 years with an adult. *Registration begins April 4*.

Pajama Story Time: Tuesday, April 19 at 7 p.m. Come in pajamas and listen to bedtime stories. For children ages 2 to 5 with an adult. Family members welcome. *Registration not required*.

PlayHooray: Monday, May 2. Music and movement for children with adults. Ages birth to 18 months at 10 a.m. Ages 18 months to 2½ years at 10:45 or 11:30 a.m. Ages 2½ to 5 at 12:30 p.m. *Registration begins April 25*.

Meet the Author

Book Discussion with Jane Breskin Zalben Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

Meet Port resident and author Jane Breskin Zalben and discuss her latest book Four Seasons. The book's mais character is 13-year-old Ally Katz, who has been playing the piano since she was 4 and is a student at the Juilliard School in New York, where careers are formed — or not. Between strict practice schedules, music classes and regular school, Ally has little time for anything else. Sometimes she wishes she could break free, but she's never known any other way. Her parents, both professional musicians, would be crushed if they knew what she was thinking. How much longer can she stand the pressure before she breaks?

When you are not quite 13, how much pressure is too much — even when you love what you're doing? Do you know kids like Ally — or do you recognize yourself in her story? Kids ages 11 to 13 and adults are invited to read this brand new book and share their thoughts and reactions with other

kids, adults and the author herself.

Registration begins April 4 by calling Children's Services at 883-4400, Ext. 150. Library copies of Four Seasons will be available at





Library welcomes acclaimed singer/ songwriter John Wesley Harding

On Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m., the library welcomes acclaimed singer-songwriter John Wesley Harding to our stage for a special SoundSwap presentation. John Wesley Harding combines twin careers as an acerbic and articulate singer-songwriter and an acclaimed novelist. On his CDs, he juggles musical styles that include sharp, witty originals, traditional folk songs, and even his own convincing imitations of old ballads.

Harding was born Wesley Stace in Hastings, England, in 1965 to musical parents. In surroundings that provided both classical and popular musical influences, Bob Dylan's songs changed 14-year-old Wes' life (and provided him with his future performing name).

After completing his degree in English Literature at Cambridge, Wes yielded to the call of songwriting and performance. Though initially compared to Elvis Costello when his first album debuted in 1991, he soon established himself as a worthy link in the chain of personally aware, politically conscious,

and observant modern songwriters. His 1992 album *Why We Fight* caught the attention of Bruce Springsteen, who asked Wes to be his opening act; The Boss' first in over 20 years. Harding's releases currently number over 20, and he continues to maintain the high standards and diversity that first earned him praise.

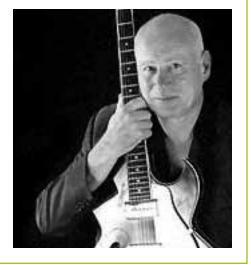
In 2005, Wes published his first novel, Misfortune, which was chosen by Amazon.com as one of the Ten Best Novels of 2005. His second, By George (August 2007), was one of the New York Public Library's "Books to Remember" of 2007, and Booklist Editor's Choice for books of the year. His newest, Charles Jessold, Considered as a Murderer, was released this February to excellent reviews. Harding also frequently writes for the New York Times' Literary Supplement, and he is an artist-in-residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he curates the Words & Music Festival.

Join us for what promises to be an afternoon of well-crafted, witty, intelligent songs and stories. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Save the Date! Coming May 5: Neil Innes

Musician/writer Neil Innes (Monty Python, The Rutles, Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band) joins us for a unique night of music and storytelling on Thursday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m.

See next month's issue for complete information.



Running your own business

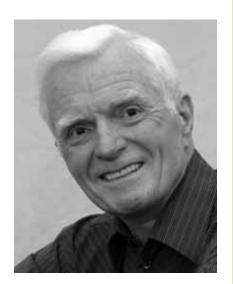
Join business coach Craig Jennings for a lively, interactive and motivational discussion Running Your Own Business: How to Avoid the Tricks and Traps That Can Hurt You on Monday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Registration begins on Tuesday, April 12, in person or by calling 883-4400, Ext. 136.

Small business is a difficult game, especially now. If you're a start-up, a solopreneur, or have people working for you, consider getting a little help. The realities are staggering — 40 percent of small businesses are gone in 1 year and 80 percent are gone within 4 years. Even in a down economy, your business can thrive as long as you learn what's critical for success

Craig Jennings graduated from Harvard and did graduate work at Columbia. He worked for CBS and Merrill-Lynch and started 8 businesses on his own, including a hi-tech computer training center, an award-winning advertising agency, and a commercial deep-sea diving business.

This program is sponsored by the library's Jobs & Careers Information Center.



Check it out! RB Shorts are here

Have a short commute (or a short attention span)? Only want to work out for an hour or less? Then RB Shorts may be for you. A new offering from Recorded Books, these single-disk CDs contain ONE short story ranging in length from 30 to 75 minutes. Some have been recently published and others are from collections by either a single author or an anthology of different authors. These CDs are being added on a trial basis and a determination will be made as to whether to continue to expand the collection in the future.

These are NOT MP3-cds, although their packaging is similar. They can be played on computers and ordinary CD players. Look for them on the "NEW" media shelving in red and white sleeves with blue spine labels.

Please give them a listen and let us know what you think by calling 883-4400, Ext. 139 or putting your comments in the Patron Comments boxes located at various service desks.

Innovations in Breast Cancer Diagnosis & Treatment:

Current Trends in Breast Cancer Care

Learn about

- The latest breast cancer research
- Advances in breast cancer treatment and breast imaging
- · Genetic counseling for breast cancer

Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Learn from a Panel of experts from the North Shore-LIJ Health System:

Medical Oncologist Jane Carleton, M.D.

Cancer Genetics Counselor **Sharona Cohen**, M.S. Radiologist **Nancy Dintenfass**, D.O. (Women's Imaging Center)

Breast Surgeon Dominic Filardi, M.D.

Sponsored by Sandsport/Shoshanna Hadassah Chapter, Manhasset Women's Coalition Against Breast Cancer and the Port Washington Public Library's Health Advisory Council

What's new in TeenSpace for grades 7 through 12?

CELEBRATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S POETRY WEEK

Visit TeenSpace during Young People's Poetry Week (April 10-16) and sample some of the highlights from our Poetry Collection. While you're there, check out our "Windows into Words," an interactive window poetry activity. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

In honor of Young People's Poetry Week, check out the Literature Resource Center database, which provides literary criticism, reviews, and biographical information on 130,000 writers worldwide. Great for research projects and homework assignments!

NEW BOOKS IN TEENSPACE

New books arrive almost every day in TeenSpace! There's a variety of topics and a wide selection from which to choose, including some interesting novels in verse form. Here are just a few recommended titles that you might enjoy:

The Best and Hardest Thing by Pat Brisson. High school sophomore Molly gets rid of her good-girl image,

E-mail: library@pwpl.org
Web Site: http://www.pwpl.org

JBRARY TRUSTEES:

ee Aitken, President

gets pregnant and has to make some difficult decisions.

All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg. Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind. Now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, he is forced to confront his past.

Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba by Margarita Engle. Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba in 1939, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again, befriends a local girl with painful secrets, and discovers that the Nazi darkness is never far away.

Wicked Girls by Stephanie Hemphill. A fictionalized account, told in verse, of the Salem witch trials, told from the perspective of three young women living in Salem in 1692.

Fallout by Ellen Hopkins. Written in free verse, this book explores how three teenagers try to cope with the consequences of their mother's addiction to crystal meth and its effects on their lives.

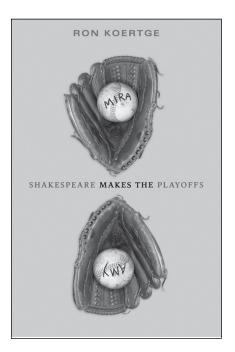
Shakespeare Makes the Playoffs by Ron Koertge. Kevin Boland, a 14-year-old poet and first baseman, is torn between his cute girlfriend and Amy, who is funny, plays Chopin on the piano, and is also a poet.

After the Kiss by Terra Elan McVoy. In alternating chapters, two high school senior girls in Atlanta reveal their thoughts and frustrations as they go through their final semester of high school.

Three Rivers Rising by Jame Richards. Celestia, 16, is a wealthy member of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, where she meets and falls in love with Peter, a hired hand who lives in the valley below. By the time of the torrential rains that lead to the disastrous Johnstown flood of 1889, she has been disowned by her family and is staying with him in Johnstown.

You Are Not Here by Samantha Schutz. Annaleah's grief over the tragic death of 17-year-old Brian is compounded by the fact that her friends did not like him, while his friends and both of their families knew nothing of their relationship.

Bruiser by Neal Shusterman. Inexplicable events start to occur when 16-year-old twins, Tennyson and Brontë, befriend a troubled and misunderstood outcast, aptly nicknamed Bruiser, and his little brother, Cody.



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