

The Port Washington Public Library

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

Issue No. 249, December 2009

The Red Leather Diary

Join us on Friday, December 4 at 12:10 p.m. for a Sandwiched In program featuring Lily Koppel, author of *The Red Leather Diary*.

In 2003, Koppel, a novice writer for *The New York Times*, stumbled upon an amazing discovery: the decades-old diary of a privileged Manhattan teenager penned between 1929 and 1934. Fascinated by entries detailing theater expeditions, shopping sprees, love interests and grand ambitions, she tracked down the original owner of this faded and cracked red-leather treasure. Koppel was elated to discover 90-year-old Florence Wolfson, who was eager to share her memories. She interviewed Florence, interweaving the brief diary entries with more detailed personal anecdotes infused with the type of glamour and sophistication associated with a 1930s romantic comedy.

After a front-page story in the *Times* Sunday City section, interest in Florence's story prompted the author to write a full-length book; it works as both a biography and a glimpse into a vanished era.

Books will be available for purchase and signing. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Holiday schedule

The library will be closed December 24 & 25 and December 31 & January 1 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Reconfiguring space to serve you better

Our circulating health books have been moved into the Reference Room, where they will complement the health-related periodicals, newsletters and online medical information that are part of our Health Information Center. Circulating career books can now be found in the Reference Room as well, enhancing our Jobs & Careers section.

Are you a comeback mom?

Career counselor Diane Reynolds, M.S. Ed., will conduct an inspirational, hands-on workshop designed especially for women who are reentering the workforce. Check our January newsletter for further details and registration information.

AARP driving course now online

Now you can take the course AARP has offered in the classroom for 27 years in the comfort of your home. Fee for the online course is \$15.95 for AARP members and \$19.95 for non-members. A certificate of completion will be mailed to your home. Upon completion, you may qualify for an automobile insurance discount. Go to <http://www.aarpdriversafety.org>

Save the dates

The Friends of the Library invites you to mark your calendars for two upcoming events. The Ruth D. Bogen Memorial Lecture featuring John McWhorter is Sunday, March 7 at 2 p.m. McWhorter is a Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a lecturer at Columbia University. His latest book is *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue: The Untold Story of English*. The Friends' annual Book & Author Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 14. Watch for details on both events in future issues.



Meet Eric Sanderson, author of *Mannhatta: A Natural History of New York City*, on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. Story on page seven.

The Best DVD Acquisitions of 2009

Of the thousand or more DVDs we added in 2009, here are some of our favorite titles:

Adventureland (a college student spends his summer working at a shabby amusement park) • *Anvil: The Story of Anvil* (documentary about a hapless heavy metal band) • *Armored Car Robbery* (gritty film noir from director Richard Fleischer) • *Battle in Seattle* (harrowing docudrama) • *Blast of Silence* (a rediscovered film noir) • *Blindness* (a plague of blindness sweeps the world) • *Burke's Law* (Gene Barry stars as a millionaire police detective) • *Choke* (a rude comedy starring Sam Rockwell) • *The Class* (a touching drama from France) • *The Corner* (powerful documentary about Baltimore drug addicts) • *Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father* (moving docudrama about the aftermath of a murder) • *Doubt* (starring Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams) • *The Duchess* (Keira Knightley as Georgiana Spencer, the Duchess of Devonshire) • *The Earrings of Madame de...* (Max Ophüls's opulent masterpiece)

Flash of Genius (Greg Kinnear as the inventor of the intermittent windshield wiper) • *For the Bible Tells Me So* (documentary about gays struggling with their faith) • *Frost/Nixon* (Frank Langella as Richard Nixon, Michael Sheen as David Frost) • *The Grocer's Son* (a sweet story from the French countryside) • *Guinevere* (Stephen Rea as a photographer and Sarah Polley as his teenaged muse) • *The Hairdresser's Husband* (a Frenchman achieves his childhood dream) • *Happy-Go-Lucky* (Sally Hawkins as a cock-eyed optimist) • *Le Jour Se Leve* (a proto-noir starring Jean Gabin) • *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* (the first true Hitchcockian thriller, finally available in a pristine print)

Mad Men: Season Two (more 1960s drama) • *Milk* (Sean Penn as gay activist Harvey Milk) • *Murnau, Borzage and Fox* (a box set chock full of forgotten classics) • *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* (Jill Scott as Botswana's first female private eye) • *Not Quite Hollywood* (a raucous salute to Australia's exploitation cinema) • *Outsourced* (an American businessman trains a crew of telephone operators in India) • *Phoebe in Wonderland* (Elle Fanning as a troubled little girl) • *Rachel Getting Married* (a dysfunctional family get-together) • *The Ring Finger* (a young woman goes to work for a peculiar scientist in this dream-like parable)

Splinter (mutating monsters on the loose) • *Surveillance* (serial killers on the loose) • *Teeth* (a grisly horror tale) • *The Three Stooges Collection* (four 2-disc volumes of slaps, punches, eye pokes and pies in the face) • *The Wackness* (the friendship between a drug-dealing teen and his pot-smoking psychiatrist) • *Wendy and Lucy* (the heartbreaking tale of a drifter and her dog) • *The Wrestler* (Mickey Rourke as a washed-up fighter)



Exercise for Over 50 Lottery information

Place your check or money order for \$35 for the series of 10 classes in the receptacle at the Information Desk between December 1 and 22. There is no form to fill out. The following information should be included in the lower left corner: your phone number or e-mail address, the day and time of the class requested — Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 9 a.m. OR 10 a.m. All

classes will follow the same format. Please submit a separate check for each class desired. Checks will be drawn on December 23.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, January 5 through March 9 and Thursdays, January 7 through March 11.

Notification of inclusion will be made by phone or e-mail. Checks not drawn will be returned.



Corinthian Trio

Music Council looks ahead

Sunday, January 24 / Corinthian Trio

Sunday, February 21 / Apollo Trio with violist Misha Amory

Concerts begin at 3 p.m. and are privately funded by donations to the Port Washington Library Foundation.

Pianist Ran Dank visits

The Music Advisory Council welcomes pianist Ran Dank on Sunday, December 6 at 3 p.m. with selections from Bach, Ives, Granados, Bartok, Chopin, Skryabin and Liszt. This concert is presented in honor of Evelyn and Eric Pick by an anonymous donor.

Israeli pianist Ran Dank won First Prize in the 2008-09 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. At the Auditions, he was also awarded the Sander Buchman Memorial First Prize, the John Browning Memorial Prize, the Jerome L. Greene Foundation Prize, which sponsored his debut in the Young Concert Artists Series in New York, the Slomovic Orchestra Soloist Prize, Georgia's Albany Symphony Prize, the Embassy Series Prize and the Saint Vincent College Bronder Prize for Piano.

In the 2008 Hilton Head International Piano Competition Mr. Dank won First Prize, as well as the 2006 Gina Bachauer Competition at the Juilliard School. In 2007 he captured top prizes in the Sydney International Piano Competition in Australia, leading to an extensive Australian concert tour, and the Cleveland International Competition, bringing him an appearance with the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall under the baton of Jahja Ling. He has received grants from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Mr. Dank has performed as

soloist with orchestras including the Juilliard School Orchestra as winner of the Concerto Competition, and in Israel with the Rishon Lezion Symphonic Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphonic Orchestra and the Raanana Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Dank was born in 1982 and started playing the piano at age seven. He received his bachelor's degree from the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University, where he studied with Emanuel Krasovsky.

In 2005 he received his master's degree from the Juilliard School, where he continues in the Artist Diploma Program.

Music Advisory Council programs are privately funded by donations to the Library Foundation.



Pulitzer Prize-Winning New Yorkers

Library garners reading & discussion grant



Junot Diaz

The library has been awarded a Reading & Discussion grant from the New York Council for the Humanities for an original concept series by program coordinator Jessica Ley, "Pulitzer Prize-Winning New Yorkers."

In the latter years of the 19th century, Joseph Pulitzer stood out as the very embodiment of American journalism. The Hungarian-born Pulitzer was the most skillful of newspaper publishers, a passionate crusader against dishonest government, a fierce, hawk-like competitor who did not shrink from sensationalism in circulation struggles, and a visionary who richly endowed his profession.

The lasting influence of the Pulitzer Prizes on journalism, literature, music and drama is attributed to his visionary acumen.

New York is viewed as the great melting pot, the destination where anyone who aspires to greatness in their chosen field must go. Our choice of four authors who came from other places and now live and work in New York, references Joseph Pulitzer's life here, as well as the immigrant experience.

The first title in the series, Junot Diaz's *Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, will be discussed on Saturday, March 20 at 11 a.m. Others in the series: *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri on April 17, *Vera, Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov* by Stacy Schiff on May 15 and *Eden's Outcasts* by John Matteson on June 19.

The series will be moderated by Peter West, professor of English at Adelphi University.



American Anthem by John Sideli. The Art Advisory Council hosts an exhibit of Mr. Sideli's artwork throughout December.



Celebrate "Beatlemania 2009" with the hosts of Fab Fourum

On Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. the library will celebrate "Beatlemania 2009!" Forty-six years after the release of their first album, John, Paul, George and Ringo are back on the top of the music charts. Join Tony Traguado and his fellow co-hosts from the new Beatles talk show "Fab Fourum," as they present an evening highlighted by rare Beatles clips and cartoons, and the "scoop" on the newly remastered Beatles catalog. The multimedia event will even include a look at the Beatles edition of the "Rock Band" game.

"Fab Fourum," which is available for free download on iTunes and

through Podarama.com, has received positive reviews on Beatle fan sites since its inception in September. During the program, the hosts of the show, radio veterans Ken Michaels (XM's "Every Little Thing") and Rob Leonard (WHPC FM's "Beatlesongs"), author Mitch Axelrod (*Beatletoons: The Real Story Behind the Cartoon Beatles*) and archivist Tony Traguado (Podarama's "4F," WCWP FM's "Beatletrax") will take questions and offer unique insights into their areas of expertise.

Don't miss this celebration of the music and history of the Fab Four!

Commando pays tribute to punk progenitors, the Ramones!

Join us on Friday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. for a wild night of music with the tribute band Commando. The band's website proclaims "Commando are a bunch of hooligans who pay homage to the Ramones by performing their hits, deep album tracks and even some cool b-sides!"

These self-proclaimed "hooligans" are actually a group of talented Long Island musicians who will pay tribute to the Ramones, a seminal punk rock band from Forest Hills

that has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2002) and the Long Island Music Hall of Fame (2008). Though the band was never a Top 40 act, their influence can be felt in many major acts of the past three decades. Please note that the music of Commando is played as it was played originally by the Ramones . . . LOUD!

The program will open with a short set by a Long Island singer songwriter.



The Ramones

December 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.*

Parenting Program

CPR for Infants and Children

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 1 & 2 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Learn how to reduce the risk of injury to infants and children, how to care for an infant or child who stops breathing, and how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Presented by Ildiko Catuogno, a certified Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid instructor and volunteer for the American Red Cross. *Registration in progress – for availability call Children Services at 883-4400, Ext. 150. Fee is \$10 per person. Limit one person per household. PLEASE NOTE: This is a non-certified CPR program. Due to the nature of each class, attendance is required for both dates.*

Book Discussion for 3rd & 4th Graders

Thursday, December 17 at 4 p.m.

Third and fourth grade members in this monthly book group will meet from 4 to 4:45 p.m. *For availability call 883-4400, Ext. 150.*

Parent Child Workshop

January 6, 13, 20, 27 & February 3 / 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Spend time with your child and meet new people in an educational and creative environment. Each week a different resource professional is on hand to discuss speech and hearing, physical fitness, nutrition and behavior. For children ages 18 to 29 months with an adult – siblings welcome. *In-person registration begins Friday, December 18 at 9:15 a.m. in the Children's Room. Birth certificates are required as proof of age; families must be Port Washington residents; priority given to first time registrants. Co-sponsored by the Port Washington Public Library Family Place.*



Vacation Week Specials

Super Circus Stuff

Monday, December 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Join Mr. Fish and Lisa Lou for a two-person circus show full of comedy, excitement and lots of audience participation. For children ages 4 and up with an adult. *Tickets required and will be available in the Children's Room beginning Monday, December 14 at 9:15 a.m.*

Storysongs by Johnny Cuomo

Wednesday, December 30 at 2:30 p.m.

Author, musician and storyteller Johnny Cuomo will delight his audience as he unfolds his tales with guitar, mandolin, tin whistle and other instruments. For children ages 4 & up with an adult. *Tickets required and will be available in the Children's Room beginning Monday, December 14 at 9:15 a.m.*

Vacation Week Specials are co-sponsored by the Children's Advisory Council, which is privately funded by donations to the Port Washington Library Foundation.

Twilight Tuesdays

Pajama Story Time in English and Spanish

Tuesday, December 8 at 7 p.m.

Takes place the second Tuesday of every month. Come in pajamas and enjoy stories, songs and fun activities. For ages 3½ to 6 with an adult. Family members welcome. *No registration required.*

Pajama Story Time – Tuesday, December 15 at 7 p.m.

Takes place the third Tuesday of every month. Come in pajamas and listen to bedtime stories. For ages 2½ to 5 with an adult. Family members welcome. *No registration required.*

Page Turners – Tuesday, December 29 at 7:15 p.m.

Fifth and sixth grade members in this monthly book group will meet from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. *For availability call 883-4400, Ext. 150.*

Save the Date

Registration begins Friday, January 8 for toddler, preschool and after school (grades K to 2) story times.

Preschool Workshops

Hands On Music – Monday, December 14 at 12 noon or 1 p.m.

Music, stories and songs. For ages 2½ to 5 accompanied by an adult. *Registration begins Monday, December 7 at 9:15 a.m. in the Children's Room or by calling 883-4400, Ext. 150.*

A Time for Kids – Mondays, January 11, 25 and February 1

Educational activities combine preschool concepts and fun. Sign up for a series of 3 dates at either 10:30 a.m., 12 noon or 1:15 p.m. For ages 18 months to 5 years with an adult. *Registration begins Monday, December 28 at 9:15 a.m. in the Children's Room or by calling 883-4400, Ext. 150.*

Library archives and art about town

As you look around town, you might notice some creative uses of photographs, slides and negatives from our local history collection.

In stores and restaurants, supermarkets and offices, as bank give-aways and wall art in popular delis, our history detectives/librarians have come up with the following sightings: large murals — one of the Sands Point lighthouse and one a rendering of photographs from the William Leiber collection; photo enlargements in a pizzeria, supermarket and real estate office featuring photographs from our

Long Island Memories series; model submissions for the Bay Walk sidewalk enhancement; renderings of a storefront window project by the Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington; and an elementary school wall adorned with aviation and maritime scenes based on historic research done in our Local History Center.

If you see any other evidence of the library's impact on the beautification of Port Washington, contact Elly Shodell (Ext. 168) or Jackie Kelly (Ext. 130) and we'll feature your find in a future issue.



Local artist makes gift to library

Toby Ozure recently donated her graphite drawing *The Mad Hatter* to the library. Ms. Ozure (r) is shown here in front of her drawing in the Children's Room with library director Nancy Curtin.

Sunday, December 20
at 3 p.m.

KEN KRESGE TRIO

Back by popular demand, this popular trio puts its signature spin on the seasonal song-book.



Mannahatta author visits

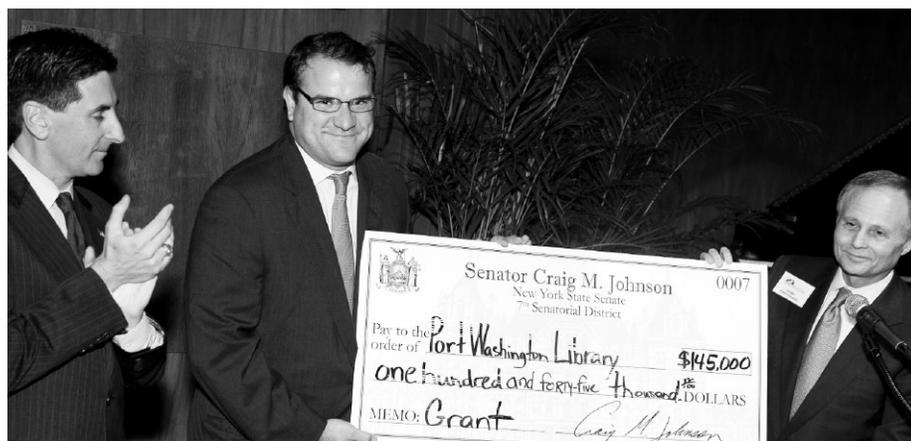
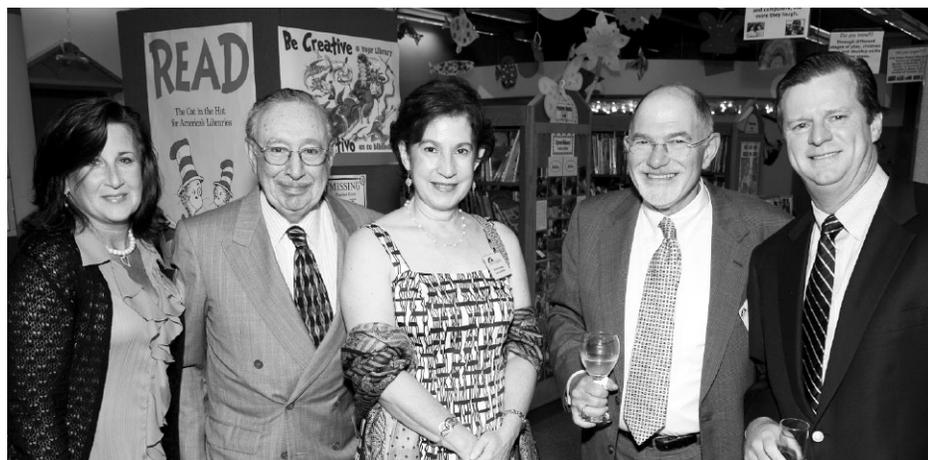
Henry Hudson first set eyes on the land that would become Manhattan on September 12, 1609. It's difficult for us to imagine what he saw, but for more than a decade, landscape ecologist Eric Sander-son worked to do just that.

Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City is the as-

tounding result of those efforts, re-constructing, in words and images, the wild island that millions of New Yorkers call home.

Meet the author on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Library is transformed for Foundation Gala

Over 160 guests attended the Port Washington Library Foundation's Sixth Inspiration Gala in September. The library was transformed for a celebration of the arts. Wonderful food, signature drinks and a benefit art auction were enjoyed by all as they mingled in the stacks and talked to representatives about projects funded by the Foundation. An exceptional concert by jazz great Derek Smith rounded out the evening. Honorees were Patrick Foye and Art Advisory Council founding members Marion Klein, Catchi Childs, Marion McManus and Ann Pellaton. Pictured above (clockwise from upper left) are Eileen Neville, Hal Spielman, Claudia Rouhana, Michael Pollack, William Neville; Marion Klein, Catchi Childs, Nancy Curtin, Marion McManus, Ann Pellaton; Nancy Curtin, Pat Foye; Wayne Wink, Craig Johnson, Ed Adler; Julie Geller, Joe and June Burden.

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

Homework Help & Test Prep

The library subscribes to many databases that are great for homework help and test prep. Log on to the library's website between 2 and 10 p.m. daily and connect with a live tutor on Tutor.com. You'll be connected to a live tutor who can assist with your questions and Spanish-speaking tutors are also available. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Bernard L. Fendrich Memorial Fund.

The *Learning Express Library* is a comprehensive, interactive database of practice tests and tutorial course series designed to help students succeed on the academic tests they must pass. You'll get immediate scoring, complete answer explanations, and an individualized analysis of your results.

New Books in TeenSpace

Great reads are easy to come by in TeenSpace! There's a wide variety of topics to choose from. Some recommended titles include:

Last December by Matt Beam. Written in the form of a suicide note from a teenager to his unborn sister, this book tells the story of how a ninth-grader comes to accept his less than ideal life after witnessing the struggles of a friend with serious depression.

Brushing Mom's Hair by Andrea Cheng ; illustrations by Nicole Wong. A 14-year-old girl, whose mother's breast cancer diagnosis and treatment have affected every aspect of their lives, finds release in ballet and art classes.

Betraying Season by Marissa Doyle. In 1838, Penelope Leland goes to Ireland to study magic and prove to herself that she is as good a witch as her twin sister Persy. But when Niall Keating begins to pay her court, she cannot help being distracted.

Troubadour by Mary Hoffman. In the winter of 1208, while the dispute between the Pope and the Cathars intensifies, 13-year-old Lady Elinor, secretly in love with a troubadour and determined to avoid her imminent marriage to an older

man, runs away from her family's castle disguised as an apprentice troubadour, unaware of the dangers ahead.

Wish You Were Dead by Todd Strasser. Madison, a senior at a suburban New York high school, tries to uncover who is responsible for the disappearance of her friends (popular students mentioned in the posts of an anonymous blogger) while she herself is being stalked online and in person.

Homestretch by Paul Volponi. Five months after losing his mother, 17-year-old Gas runs away from an abusive father and gets a job working at an Arkansas race track, surrounded by the illegal Mexican immigrants that he and his father blame for her death.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld. In an alternate 1914 Europe, 15-year-old Austrian Prince Alek is on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery. He forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn, who, disguised as a boy to join the

British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

The Pricker Boy by Reade Scott Whinnem. After finding a mysterious package in the spooky woods where they grew up, 14-year-old Stucks Cumberland and his friends are forced to consider that their childhood bogeyman might be all too real.



The library offers programs for teens throughout the year. Check this space for what's new.



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