Soprano Máire O’Brien performs January 21

Soprano Máire O’Brien visits on Sunday, January 21 at 3 p.m. to perform songs by Debussy, Handel and Richard Hundley and settings of poetry by W.B. Yeats. She will be accompanied by pianist Mark Riggleman. The Washington Post says Máire O’Brien’s performance in Orff’s Carmina Burana at the Kennedy Center with the Washington Chorus “was fresh and sweet in the soprano arias, and she has both the stratospheric high notes and the raw courage to take on the solo “Dulcissimme!” O’Brien received enthusiastic praise for her New York City Opera debut as Miss Jessel in Britten’s Turn of the Screw. The New York Times hailed her portrayal as “vivid and well sung.” Her powerful performance as the Duchess in Powder Her Face, by acclaimed composer Thomas Ades, was heard at the Aspen Music Festival, in its American stage premiere conducted by the composer, and at Brooklyn Academy of Music’s Next Wave Festival. She has sung at the Meet the Virtuoso Series at the 92nd Street Y, the Masterworks Series at Shenandoah Conservatory, VA and at the Music at Penn Alps Series in Maryland.

Ms. O’Brien was a regional finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition. She was the only two-time winner of the E. Nakamichi Concerto Competition at the Aspen Music Festival and has been awarded prizes at the Premio Sanremo Musica Classico and Iris Adami Corradetti International Voice Competition (Italy), the Olga Koussevitsky Competition and Genevieve B. Gauermann Award (New York) and the New Jersey State Opera Competition. She is a recipient of a Gerda Lissner Foundation Career Grant.

On CD, Ms. O’Brien is to be heard in Handel’s Deidamia as Nerea, James Adler’s Memento Mori: An AIDS Requiem and Nielsen’s Symphony No. 3 on the Naxos Label.

Other performances in twentieth century repertoire include Augusta Read Thomas’ Ligeia at the Aspen Music Festival, at Spoleto USA, Bernstein’s Trouble in Tahiti as a Young Artist at the prestigious Juilliard Opera Center and Jenny Diver in Britten’s The Beggar’s Opera. She has sung at the Meet the Virtuoso Series at the 92nd Street Y, the Masterworks Series at Shenandoah Conservatory, VA and at the Music at Penn Alps Series in Maryland.

A native of Dublin, Ireland, Ms. O’Brien trained at the Juilliard Opera Center and holds a bachelor’s degree from Trinity College, Dublin, and a master’s of music from the Juilliard School.

Holiday schedule

The library will be closed Sunday and Monday, December 31 and January 1 in observance of New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. The library will be open 1 to 5 p.m on Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King Day.

Doug Block screens 51 Birch Street

Documentary filmmaker Doug Block, will introduce his film and answer questions afterwards on Friday, January 5 and again on Tuesday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m. See the calendar of events for a complete description.

Disability survey

In an effort to better serve Port residents with disabilities, the library will conduct a survey to gather data from people in our community. The survey will allow individuals with various disabilities to share their experiences about using the library.

Director’s Cut

On Thursday, February 1 at 8 p.m. film expert John Bosco will screen and discuss House of Sand (Casa de Areua) (2005-115 min.). In Brazil in 1910, Vasco de Sá moves with his pregnant wife Aurea and her mother Maria to a desert near a lagoon. When his workers abandon the place and Vasco dies, the two women are left alone without any resources. Brazilian filmmaker Andrucha Waddington directs his wife, Fernanda Torres, and his mother-in-law, Fernanda Montenegro, in dual roles. The film is in Portuguese with English subtitles.

Tai Chi

Join us for a Tai Chi demonstration and workshop on Thursday, February 8 at 8 p.m. Developed in China a few hundred years ago, Tai Chi is a type of martial art that is known for its health benefits. Release tension and stress with Master Sitan Chen, who has won over 32 gold medals and the title of Champion in national and international Tai Chi competitions. Audience participation follows the demonstration.

A new library resource

Elly Shodell, Curt Trinko and Carol Clarke present the official Guide to the Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington Archives, at the Residents Annual Meeting in December. Funding for the project was provided by the Documentary Heritage Program of the New York State Archives.

In the Main Gallery

Larry Dinkin exhibits his Serigraph Visions: Improbable to Inevitable January 3 through 29. The Art Advisory Council hosts a reception for the artist on Saturday, January 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Issue No. 215, January 2007

The Port Washington Public Library
Library Trustee Everett Brenner remembered

Life, Love and Lullabies: Mostly Theater Music, a concert to honor the memory Everett Brenner, will be presented on Saturday, January 6 at 7:30 p.m by Mr. Brenner’s daughter, mezzo-soprano Amy Brenner Mitz. Ev Brenner, who passed away in January, 2005, was a Trustee of the library.

Everett Brenner was a theater aficionado, who particularly enjoyed the versatility of Audra MacDonald. Therefore, the concert will consist primarily of theater music.

A Port Washington native, Amy Brenner Mitz attended Port Washington Public Schools, graduating from Paul D. Schreiber High School. She also graduated from Clark University with a BA in English Literature and from Hebrew Union College in New York City, where she received a Master’s degree in Sacred Music and Cantorial Investiture.

Amy and her husband, Howard, a gastroenterologist, live in northern New Hampshire with their twin sons, Aden and Jack.

The accompanist for the concert will be Deirdre Brenner, Amy’s cousin, who has performed in concerts throughout the United States, UK, Ireland and continental Europe.

A Cape Cod native, Deirdre earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College and her Master of Music degree from the Royal Academy of Music in London. She studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin with Dr. John O’Connor. She has also studied with Loretta Slovak, Sally Pinkas, Colin Stone and Julius Drake. She is currently studying lieder, coaching and performance at the Vienna Conservatory in Vienna, Austria.

Friends Cabin Fever Series

The Friends of the Library hosts its popular Cabin Fever Series again this winter. The first program, featuring Wendy Perelman, will be on Wednesday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m. at Main 415. Cost of the program is $15. Registration information is available at the library. Ms. Perelman is a musical theater writer who will speak about writing and producing a musical.

Wendy is a graduate of the music theatre program at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She has appeared in New York at the Second Stage and Equity Library Theatres. The Triad, The Ballroom and Don’t Tell Mama. Regional work includes the world premiere of Dear at the Syracuse Stage, Some Enchanted Evening at the Pennsylvania Stage, The Not Mikado at the Virginia Opera, Starting Here, Starting Now at the New American Theatre, Diana in A Chorus Line at the Lorin Theatre, Trina in Falssettos at the People’s Light & Theatre Company, Pam in Baby at the Corbett Theatre, Little Me at the Bermuda Theatre, and the Claggett Playhouse in the Park. Wendy toured the U.S. with My One and Only and has performed in Korea and Japan. She co-produced and co-starred in the indie film Good Money, which won the 1997 New York Comedy Film Festival award for Best Feature.

Having It Almost, a new musical that had its world premiere at the New York Musical Theatre Festival on September 13, 2006, was conceived by Wendy, a 40-something woman living in Los Angeles, who had left New York and her career years earlier to get married, raise kids and be a housewife.

Wendy had never expected to put aside her creative dreams, but upon doing so, found that the life of wife, mother and mini-van driver was not as fulfilling as she had imagined. The seeds of what would become Having It Almost grew out of Wendy’s need to express her creative self.

She enlisted her TV producer-husband, Jeremiah Bosgang, and with the help of ASCAP and BMI, canvassed the theatre community for trunk songs that addressed the issues she wanted to explore (namely those of women in their 40s). Subsequently, in collaborating with her close friends David Goldsmith (co-book writer and lyricist) and John Kavanaugh (composer), what was once a musical revue of songs, evolved into a full-fledged book musical. And now, four years later, the project has completed its world premiere showcase at the New World Stages in Manhattan, as part of the prestigious New York Musical Theatre Festival.

Bill Englander In the Photography Gallery

Bill Englander has lived in Port Washington for 35 years, and practiced law for nearly 60 years. His photographs will be exhibited January 3 through February 28 in the Photography Gallery.

He writes, “For the past 35 years, photography has liberated me from the tyranny of language that my law practice has imposed. I have often asked myself: if a picture is worth a thousand words, is one photographer worth a thousand lawyers? I look for the moments between — before or after the purposeful gesture, during the unexpected pause, or the unobserved meditation. The lens divides the world into an infinite number of parts. Why do I see some of them while you see others? No doubt the choice is compelled by the sum of our lives up to the very moment of exposure.”
Author visits planned

Port Washington resident Richard Sonnenfeldt, author of Witless to Nuremberg, visits on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m.

In this gripping memoir by the chief American interpreter at the Nuremberg trials, Sonnenfeldt recounts a remarkable life. By the time he was 18 years old, he had grown up in Germany, escaped to England, been deported to Australia as a “German enemy alien,” arrived in the United States, and joined the U.S. army. By age 22 he had fought in the Battle of the Bulge and helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp. When he was appointed chief interpreter for the American prosecution of Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg trials. During his service, he spent pretrial time with Hermann Goering as well as other top Nazi leaders like von Ribbentrop, Rudolph Hoess and Julius Streicher, the infamous editor of the anti-Semitic Der Sturmer.

As an engineer in later life, he was a principal developer of color TV and computer technology and a key player in NASA’s preparation of the first moon shot. Following his presentation, Mr. Sonnenfeldt will sign copies of his book, available courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

James Barron visits on Sunday, January 14 at 3 p.m. to present Piano: The Making of a Steinway Concert Grand.

In this captivating narrative, Barron tells the story of one Steinway piano, from raw lumber to finished instrument. Barron follows that brand-new piano on its eleven-month journey through the Steinway factory, where time-honored manufacturing methods vie with modern-day industrial efficiency. He looks over the shoulders of men and women — some second- and third-generation employees, some recent immigrants — who transform wood and steel into a concert grand. Together, they carry on the traditions begun more than 150 years ago by the immigrants who founded Steinway & Sons — a family that soared to prominence in the music world and, for a while, in New York City’s political and economic life. Barron also explores the art and science of developing a piano’s timbre and character before its first performance.

James Barron is a staff reporter for The New York Times. Over the past 25 years, his writing has appeared in virtually every section of the paper and has ranged from breaking coverage of the September 11 attacks and the 2003 New York City blackout to The Gates public art installation in Central Park. Juilliard graduate Philip Fisher will perform on our own recently refurbished Steinway grand. Books will be available for signing courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

Friends turns 40 in style

Nearly 400 people attended the weekend-long 40th anniversary celebration of the Friends of the Library held November 3 through 5. Seven events — from a vaudeville show for kids, to a lecture on investigative journalism, to a gospel concert — thrilled patrons of all ages and interests. “There was truly something for everyone,” said Amy Bass, FOL president. Elected officials including U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, TONH Councilman Fred Pollack, State Senator Michael Balboni, State Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli and Nassau County Legislator Craig Johnson sent proclamations congratulating the FOL and recognizing its four decades of service. In addition, the FOL held art and writing contests for children in grades K-6 on the theme of “What I love about our library.” A list of winners may be found on the FOL’s webpage at www.pwpl.org/fol. All 60 entries were on view in the Children’s Room.

What’s new in TeenSpace

continued from back page

school musical. (YA Fic Shulman)
The Rules of Survival
by Nancy Werlin. Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother. (YA Fic Werlin)

American Born Chinese
by Gene Luen Yang and Gene Yang. Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in popular culture. (Graphic YA Fic Yang)
The Book Thief
by Markus Zusak. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel — a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding. (YA Fic Zusak)

AN INTERGENERATIONAL AFTERNOON: Seniors shared their stories about Port Washington with fifth grade classes from Sousa Elementary School at the library on October 13. Clipboards, pencils, cameras and questions in hand, the students sat mesmerized as seniors traveled down memory lane. Library program coordinator Jessica Ley, Sousa School and Friends of the Arts worked together on Finding Port: Sharing Our Stories, a pilot project designed by Friends of the Arts, a not for profit arts organization in Locust Valley.
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.

Winter Workshop for Preschoolers

**Willy the Penguin / Monday, January 22 at 1 p.m.**

Join art designer Shirley Ruby and create a cute and frosty hanging.
For preschool children ages 3 to 5 accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and begins Tuesday, January 9 at 9:15 a.m. in the Children’s Room or by calling 883-4400, Ext.150. Workshop fee: $3.

Workshop Series for Parents

*a series of Monday workshops from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

Meet other parents from the community and discuss popular topics with **Tina Rotstein, CSW**

January 22 “How to understand and deal with children’s anger”
January 29 “Why do some children seem more stressed”
February 5 “Juggling the many needs of our families”
February 12 “Create a parent team even when we disagree”

Registration begins Tuesday, January 9 at 9:15 a.m. in the Children’s Room or by calling 883-4400, Ext. 150.

Twilight Tuesdays

**Bilingual Story Time — Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m.**

Takes place the second Tuesday of every month. Join local resident Mayra Cruz-Vazquez and children’s librarian Rachel Fox for stories and fingerplays in English and Spanish from 7 to 7:30 p.m. For children ages 3½ to 6 accompanied by an adult. Family members welcome. No registration required.

**Pajama Story Time — Tuesday, January 16 at 7 p.m.**

Takes place the third Tuesday of every month. Come in pajamas and listen to bedtime stories from 7 to 7:30 p.m. For children ages 2½ to 5 accompanied by an adult. Family members welcome. No registration required.

**Page Turners — Tuesday, January 30 at 7:15 p.m.**

Takes place the last Tuesday of every month. 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.

Born To Read

Congratulations new parents!
The Port Washington Public Library is proud to be a part of Born To Read, a nationwide program that promotes early literacy. Born To Read was created to reach out to new parents and their babies in an effort to encourage the sharing of books together. This special bond between parents and children can begin from the time a child is born.

We invite Port Washington families with babies born anytime in the year 2007 to participate. Please visit the Children’s Room to receive the Born To Read welcome gift. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Our Monthly Display: “Lost & Found”

Visit the Children’s Room throughout the month to view an eclectic display of *Lost & Found* items. Whether it’s a baseball cap, a deck of cards or a children’s wristwatch, the collection consists of articles left in the Children’s Room from just the past few months. Prior to this exhibit, selected pieces, such as clothing and toys were donated to St. Peter of Alcantara Thrift Shop and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Have you left anything recently in the Children’s Room? If you see it on display, let us know.
Upcoming concerts

The Music Advisory Council's 2006-07 Season continues with these fine performers. Please join us on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m.

Sunday, February 18 at 3 p.m.
Amadeo Modigliani String Quartet

Sunday, March 18 at 3 p.m.
Dora Seres, Flute

Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m.
Adam Neiman, Piano

Sunday, May 6 at 3 p.m.
Smolens Swingtet

More 1930s Classics on DVD

If you're enjoying our 1930s Film Festival, check out these comedies, dramas, westerns, thrillers, adventure films, crime pictures and musicals from the 1930s in our DVD collection:

- Animal Crackers
- The Animal Kingdom
- Anna Christie
- Anna Karenina
- The Big Trail
- The Black Room
- Block-Heads
- Bride of Frankenstein
- Broken Dreams
- Camille
- Captain Blood
- Captains Courageous
- Carefree
- The Champ
- Cimarron
- Cleopatra
- The Crusades
- A Dawned in Distress
- Destroy Rome Again
- The Devil's Doctor
- Doctor X
- Dracula
- Dracula's Daughter
- Duck Soup
- East of Borneo
- Eternally Yours
- Flying Down to Rio
- Four Frightened People
- Frankenstein
- G Men
- The Good Earth
- Grand Hotel
- The Great Gildred
- The Green Pastures
- Gunga Din
- Hallelujah, I'm a Bum
- Hell's Angels
- Horse Feathers
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame
- The Hound of the Baskervilles
- The Angels
- Horse Feathers
- The Hound of the Baskervilles
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame
- I Cover the Waterfront
- In Old Chicago
- International House
- Island of Lost Souls
- It's a Gift
- Jamaica Inn
- Jezebel
- The Kennel Murder Case
- King Kong
- King Solomon's Mines
- The Last Days of Pompeii
- Let 'Em Have It
- Lost Horizon
- Mad Love
- March of the Wooden Soldiers
- Marie Antoinette
- Mata Hari
- Millie
- Modern Times
- The Most Dangerous Game
- Mystery of the Wax Museum
- A Night at the Opera
- Ninotchka
- Nothing Sacred
- Our Relations
- Pick Up Your Troubles
- The Petrified Forest
- Platinum Blonde
- Possessed
- Prisoner of Shark Island
- The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex
- Rain
- The Rains Came
- Roberta
- Sabotage
- Scarface
- The Scarlet Letter
- The Scarlet Pimpernel
- The Secret of Dr. Kildare
- Sign of the Cross
- Son of Frankenstein
- Sons of the Desert
- Stagecoach
- They Made Me a Criminal
- Tarzan the Ape Man
- Things to Come
- Topper
- Winterset
- The Wizard of Oz
- Wuthering Heights
- You Can't Cheat an Honest Man
- You Only Live Once
- The Young in Heart
- Young Mr. Lincoln

Have you noticed?

Vintage photographs from the library's Local History Collection are making their way around town, mounted on the walls of a number of local businesses. The photos add an interesting flavor to the character of our town.

Archival resources are also used by genealogists, students, teachers, researchers, architects, historians, town planners and residents interested in the origins of their houses, neighborhoods and community groups.

Part of Me by Kimberly Willis Holt. A heartwarming collection of stories chronicles four generations of a Louisiana family. When the tale begins in 1939 with young Rose, who leaves school to help support her family by driving a bookmobile, the final story takes place in 2004, with 79-year-old Rose embarking on a book tour to celebrate the publication of her first book. Readers will enjoy the cast of characters whose lives are connected by reading and the books they treasure. For children ages 10-14. Joni Simon

Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin. Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother. Lori Gerbasi

The Stolen Child by Keith Williamson. This book chronicles four new owners of a book mobile who have been stolen away from one of them. The reader follows Henry as he grows up and Aniday, his just a touch of sadness, a whole coconut! Filled with the perfect amount of humor, wisdom, and a just a touch of sadness, The Manny Files is perfect for ages 10 to adult. Karen Anderson

Monsters: A Celebration of the Classics by Christian Zuzak. Trying to make sense of the world during the panned exodus of 1940 and the second with the early period of Nazi occupation, Irene Nemirovsky's portrait of French society in the grips of war and occupation is not judgmental, but it is devastating. Nemirovsky was Jewish, but converted to Catholicism and wrote two anti-Semitic magazines in an attempt to hide the family's Jewish origins and protect her children from growing anti-Semitism. Read in tandem with Marcus Zusak's, The Book Thief (another staff pick) one gets an "everymanʻs" depiction of war from both sides of the fence. Jessica Ley

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of a young German girl named Liesel, whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her foster family, their neighbors and the Jewish man they are hiding in their basement. Suzanne Ponzini

Here Lies the Library by Richard Peck. Education is not a high priority for Eleanor "Pee wee" McGrath; she would rather repair cars at her brother's garage than read books. Things begin to change when a group of over enthusiastic librarians come to town to reopen the library and take Pee wee under their wing. As they try to teach the town the importance of education, Pee wee begins to see that she might have more potential than she ever realized. Rachelle Fox

Our staff favorites from 2006
What’s new in TeenSpace?

Teen Advisory Group
Would you like to help select books, movies and music for TeenSpace? If so, join our Teen Advisory Group (grades 7-12). To join, stop by TeenSpace or call us at 883-4400, Ext. 148.

Friday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Goal! The Dream Begins
Like millions of kids around the world, Santiago harbors the dream of being a professional footballer. Living in the Barrios section of Los Angeles, he thinks it is just that — a dream, until a turn of events has him trying out for Premiership Club Newcastle United.

Top Picks for 2006
Here is a recommended reading list just for teens, compiled by the Young Adult Services Staff, that reflects some of our favorite picks from 2006.

Avalon High by Meg Cabot.
Having moved to Annapolis, Maryland, with her medievalist parents, high school junior Ellie enrolls at Avalon High School, where several students may or may not be reincarnations of King Arthur and his court. (YA Fic Cabot)

Saint Iggy by K.L. Going.
Iggy Corso, who lives in city public housing, is caught physically and spiritually between good and bad when he is kicked out of high school, goes searching for his missing mother, and causes his friend to get involved with the same dangerous drug dealer. (YA Fic Going)

An Abundance of Katherines by John Green.
Always being dumped by girls named Katherine, Colin Singleton, a washed-up child prodigy with a Judge Judy obsessed best friend, embarks on a quest to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which will impact all of his future relationships and change his life. (YA Fic Green)

Incantation by Alice Hoffman.
During the Spanish Inquisition, 16-year-old Estrella, raised Catholic, discovers her family’s true Jewish identity, and when the secret is betrayed by Estrella’s bestfriend, the consequences are tragic. (YA Fic Hoffman)

Sold by Patricia McCormick.
Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal with plans to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India with no hope of escape. (YA Fic McCormick)

Small Steps by Louis Sachar.
Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is struggling to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money, Armpit reluctantly goes along. (YA Fic Sachar)

Enthusiasm by Polly Shulman.
Julie and Ashleigh, high school sophomores and Jane Austen fans, seem to fall for the same Mr. Darcy-like boy and struggle to hide their true feelings while rehearsing for a

continued inside