Literacy, fun and Books for Dessert

Annamarie Benzinger is a teacher who just can’t stop teaching. After working for thirty years in the Port Washington School District at both the elementary and middle school level, she retired in 2002. One year later she started up again. This time, however, things were a little different. She became a group leader for Books For Dessert, an award-winning book club for adults over 21 with intellectual disabilities.

“This amazing to be a part of the reading experience with this group. They work together, help one another—it is what any teacher could hope for,” says Benzinger. Aside from reading through the text, the club dissects the vocabulary and makes connections between the characters’ experiences and their own.

Benzinger’s group meets at the Library every Monday morning. Over the past dozen years her group has read everything from sophisticated picture books to abridged classics. It’s an extremely participatory meeting—“as Benzinger notes, “These individuals aren’t required to be here, they choose to come, and that’s what makes it such a wonderful educational environment.”

There are three separate book groups, each meeting weekly: Monday morning, Monday evening or Thursday evening. Each group is facilitated by a different leader. Many of the participants have been coming for years, but new members are always welcome.

Books for Dessert will begin its thirteenth year at the end of September. If you would like more information, please contact Keith Klang, Head of Adult Services, at 516-883-4400, ext.135 or kklang@pwpl.org.

Literacy program bolstered by donation

The Books for Dessert program recently received a major boost from a generous, anonymous donation. The Library thanks the local philanthropist who contributed to this special service, which relies on private donations.

See Heaven Adores You, an Elliot Smith documentary, and meet the filmmaker

On Friday, August 7 at 7:30 p.m. the Library will screen Heaven Adores You (2015-105 min.), a documentary about the life and music of Elliot Smith. Nick Ross, the film’s director, will be on hand to discuss the production.

Elliott Smith (1969 – 2003) was an American singer-songwriter and musician. His primary instrument was the guitar, but he was also proficient with piano, clarinet, bass guitar, drums and harmonica. Smith had a distinctive vocal style, characterized by a whispery delivery, and used multi-tracking to create vocal layers, textures and harmonies.

Smith began his solo career in 1994. He rose to mainstream prominence when his song “Miss Misery” – included in the soundtrack for the film Good Will Hunting — was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Original Song category in 1998. Albums such as Either/Or, XO and Figure 8 cemented his reputation as a brilliant, but troubled, songwriter and performer. Smith died from stab wounds in 2003.

By threading the music of Elliott Smith through the dense, yet often isolating landscapes of the three major cities in which he lived—Portland, New York City and Los Angeles—Heaven Adores You presents a visual journey and an earnest review of the singer’s prolific songwriting career, and the impact it continues to have on fans, friends and fellow musicians.

August schedule

We will be closed on Sundays throughout August, with Sunday hours resuming after Labor Day weekend.

PWPL at the LIRR

Our summer service at the train station continues in August, running through September 9. We’ll be there on Wednesday mornings from 7 to 9 a.m. Borrow popular paperbacks—no library card required! Also, ask us about downloading e-books and audiobooks straight to your phone or tablet. See you at the station!

Adult Summer Reading Club

Summer reading isn’t just for kids anymore—join the Adult Summer Reading Club! Register at the Information Desk or at pwpl.org. Just keep track of what you’ve read—fiction or non-fiction—and for every book you read you’ll be entered in a raffle to win book-related prizes. You’ll also get a welcome gift just for joining! Books must be finished before August 21st. Audiobooks count too. Good luck and happy reading!

Planters Donated

A generous community member and Nassau County Legislator Delia De Riggi-Whitton have arranged for the installation of two beautiful flower planters at our parking lot entrance, dedicated to Library Board of Trustees President Lee Aitken and Library Director Nancy Curtin. Thanks to this anonymous donor and Legislator De Riggi for brightening up our entryway!

Save the Date:
On September 25, superstar authors Marc Brown and R.L. Stine visit PWPL!

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Judy and Ted Goldsmith and Jane and Marty Schwartz to be honored at the PWLF’s Twelfth Annual Inspiration Gala

On Saturday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m., the Port Washington Public Library will host the Port Washington Library Foundation’s Twelfth Inspiration Gala—“A Novel Affair”—honoring Judy and Ted Goldsmith and Jane and Marty Schwartz. The evening will feature a cocktail extravaganza with open bars, signature drinks, food stations and wonderful desserts catered by Port Washington’s own H on the Harbor. Readings from some of literature’s great novels will inspire and entertain.

Tickets to the event are $250 and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, call 516-883-4400, ext. 180 or visit www.pwpfoundation.org. Support the Foundation and/or give tribute to an honoree by visiting our e-journal at www.pwlfanovelaffair.com.

Community Leadership Award winners Ted and Judy Goldsmith have long volunteered for the Library’s ESOL program, teaching writing and literacy. In 2005, Ted joined the ESOL program as a writing teacher, and now teaches three writing classes as well as training at least one future teacher each year. In 2008 he founded a similar program at the Flushing Public Library and in 2013 received the “Tutor of the Year” award for the borough of Queens.

Ted also created a twice-monthly group for local adults who meet in our Local History Center to ponder the ethical dilemmas of society. Last winter he began moderating a similar monthly group for the seniors at the Amsterdam residence in Port Washington. In addition, he recently joined the Library’s Job Search Boot Camp program, which assists Long Islanders seeking employment, as a practice interviewer.

Judy Goldsmith is a born nurturer. When her kids were in Weber Middle School, she volunteered at the Henry Viscardi School in Albertson, working with severely disabled children. After a 25-year second career as a floral designer with her own business, Judith E. Goldsmith Floral Designs, she closed her shop in 2008 and joined her husband in the ESOL program, using her skills to co-teach a class of beginners, which she continues to do today.

The Elaine and Leonard Wurzel Community Service Award winners Jane and Marty Schwartz moved to Port Washington from Atlanta 45 years ago. Marty served as the first executive director of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which focuses on at-risk youth. After retiring from the Casey Foundation, Marty served as a board member of the Community Synagogue, was a founding member of Sustainable Long Island, is an emeritus member of the board of advisors of the Long Island Community Foundation, and was Vice President of the Hempstead Boys and Girls Club. He presently sits on the board of ERASE Racism, a Long Island not-for-profit that works toward racial equality.

Jane’s devotion to improving the quality of life for others is matched only by the energy and kindness that she brings to every undertaking. Jane has been a teacher, a director of development for AIDS-Films, a volunteer fundraiser for ERASE Racism, and a past president of the Hempstead Boys and Girls Club. He presently sits on the board of ERASE Racism, a Long Island not-for-profit that works toward racial equality. Jane’s devotion to improving the quality of life for others is matched only by the energy and kindness that she brings to every undertaking. Jane has been a teacher, a director of development for AIDS-Films, a volunteer fundraiser for ERASE Racism, and a past president of the Hempstead Boys and Girls Club. He presently sits on the board of ERASE Racism, a Long Island not-for-profit that works toward racial equality.
Hot August nights: Spero plays Nyro, and David Bennett Cohen returns

On Friday, August 14 at 7:30 p.m., Christine Spero and her trio pay tribute to Laura Nyro. Laura Nyro was among the most gifted singer-songwriters of the sixties and seventies, and one of the first female singer-songwriters who didn’t come from the folk-music world. Her music reflected a combination of spirituality and street smarts. Bursting with talent, she possessed a soulful soprano, a commanding touch on the piano, and an arsenal of songs that drew from R&B, soul, gospel and jazz.

“Christine Spero blew away any elitist music critic prejudices I may have had about a singer-songwriter devoting an entire evening’s performance to covers of another artist. Christine Spero took the works of one of her early mentors, Laura Nyro, and recreated them in her own image. And what an image it was. This woman has a lover’s touch on piano, a jazz master’s vocabulary and a vocal splendor perfectly matched by a band that is nothing short of breathtaking.” -- Don Wilcock, The Saratogian

On Wednesday, August 26th at 7:30 p.m. we welcome David Bennett Cohen back for a boogie-woogie SoundSwap event. David has appeared as a soloist and with our Hootenanny bands, and always delights audiences with his songs and stories.

Since 1965, Cohen has played with many notable musicians, including Luther Tucker, Mick Taylor, Tim Hardin, Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Winter, Huey Lewis, Michael Bloomfield and Bob Weir. His solo albums include David Bennett Cohen at the Piano, In the Pocket, and Cookin’ with Cohen.

Cohen currently performs in the New York area, both solo and with The Former Members, a band that includes Bruce Barthol (Country Joe and the Fish), Roy Blumenfeld (Blues Project) and Greg Douglass (Steve Miller Band).

Enjoy an intimate performance by this master of blues, boogie-woogie and New Orleans style piano. Cohen will play songs from his recent albums, along with some Country Joe and the Fish and Blues Project classics.

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Take the Museum Pass Quiz!

Thanks to generous funding from the Friends of the Library, PWPL has passes to 18 fun and fascinating museums. Port cardholders can reserve online at pwpl.org/museumpass, or call 516-883-4400, ext. 111. Below are some fun facts about the 18 museums—see if you can successfully match the clues and the museums. When you’re done, borrow some passes and go learn more!

A. This museum features an annual exhibition of John James Audubon’s watercolors from his Birds of America series.
B. You may encounter a ghost or two when visiting this museum.
C. Ahoy mates! If you visit this museum on PirateFest Day (August 30th), dress like a pirate and win a prize. There will be swashbuckling fun and activities for all ages.
D. When the weather turns warm, this museum’s City Splash exhibit encourages children of all ages to explore and learn more about the unique properties of water in a fun, hands-on setting.
E. After learning about Long Island’s fascinating aerospace heritage at this museum, take a ride on historic Nunley’s Carousel.
F. Spend the day hiking nature trails, exploring the shoreline, and learning about Long Island’s rich geological and Native American history at this museum and preserve.
G. This museum is filled with graffiti! The Martin Wong Graffiti collection includes works by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Christopher “Daze” Ellis, FUTURA 2000, Keith Haring, LA II, LADY PINK and Lee Quiñones.
H. This suburban art museum is a three-story Georgian mansion that exemplifies Gold Coast architecture of the late 19th century. The grounds of the museum include a sculpture park, a formal garden, a pine tree trellis, rare specimen trees, and walking trails.
I. When strolling through this Chelsea museum, you might bump into the Dalai Lama.
J. At this museum, visitors can explore an aircraft carrier, a submarine, a space shuttle and the British Airways Concorde, all with walking distance of each other!
K. This museum provides visitors with a unique and wonderful opportunity to step back in time and experience life in a recreated mid-19th century American village that includes an assortment of homes, farms and businesses.
L. You and your child will be up to your elbows in goop, shaving cream, Play-Doh and lots of other silly stuff when you attend a “Messy Afternoon” workshop at this popular children’s museum.
M. People of all ages will enjoy the interactive gallery of this museum that is as informative as it is fun. Call 911, crawl low in smoke, stop-drop-roll, practice home escape planning and much more. It’s an opportunity to learn how to protect yourself and your family.
N. Come visit this Upper East Side museum and discover why 5th Ave at 92nd Street is the intersection of art and Jewish culture.
O. Visitors to this New York museum can fly to Venice, Bilbao and Abu Dhabi and visit the same museum.
P. If you buy an item of clothing at this museum’s gift shop, you may be mistaken for an officer of the law!
Q. Visitors of all ages are invited to create their own artwork at the CREATE YOUR OWN Art Activity station in the central gallery of this fabulous Suffolk County art museum.

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Answer Key:
1. Children’s Museum of Manhattan
2. Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum
3. Cradle of Aviation Museum
4. Garvies Point Museum
5. Heckscher Museum of Art
6. Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
7. Jewish Museum of New York
8. Long Island Children’s Museum
9. Merchant’s House Museum
10. Museum of the City of New York
11. Nassau County Firefighters Museum
12. Nassau County Museum of Art
13. New York City Police Museum
14. New York Historical Society
15. Old Bethpage Village Restoration
16. Old Westbury Gardens
17. Rubin Museum of Art
18. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

The featured authors were Jules Feiffer and Mary Gordon, and Port's own Susan Isaacs returned as moderator. A total of 56 corporate and individual sponsors and 20 raffle prize donors helped to make the event such a success.

Here are some of our favorite photos from this year's luncheon:

*First row, left to right:* FOL President Amy Bass, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth and PWPL Board of Trustees President Lee Aitken; Amy Bass with Jules Feiffer, Susan Isaacs and Mary Gordon; Susan Isaacs introducing the authors.

*Second row:* Jules Feiffer and Mary Gordon addressing the crowd; Sam Guedouar, Executive Director of Event Sponsor The Amsterdam at Harborside with Elaine Lucchesi; The authors signed dozens of books for attendees.

*Third row:* Amy Bass with Deirdre Costa Major representing Gold Sponsor Americana Manhasset; FOL Board members Eleanor Bybeck, Lauren Smith, Tinu Thakore, teen volunteers Annelise Meyding and John O'Connell, Pamela O'Connell and Ellen Zimmerman; Jill D'Agostino with Gold Sponsor Joan Nahas.

*Fourth row:* Gold Sponsors Karen and Ed Adler; Members of the library staff, past and present.

*Fifth row:* The FOL Board of Directors with Library Director Nancy Curtin and (seated) Mary Gordon, Susan Isaacs and Jules Feiffer; Schreiber High School teachers (seated) Larry Schultz and Joan Lisecki with student honorees Rachel Ellerson and Milan Sani.

*Photos by Will Wright and Seth Ehrlich.*

Save the Date! The 2016 Book & Author Luncheon will be held on Friday, May 13 at the North Hills Country Club.
To register for these events, please call 516-883-4400, ext. 150.

**Family Film**

**Big Hero 6** - Friday, August 21 at 7 p.m.  
(2014–102 min.) When a criminal threatens to destroy the fast-paced, high-tech city of San Fransokyo, Hiro and his closest companion, a robot named Baymax, team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes. A Walt Disney Animation Studios Production, directed by Don Hall and Chris Williams. Rated PG for parental guidance.

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**School-Age Kids**

**Pop Message on Canvas** - Saturday, August 1 at 9:30 a.m.  
Join art educator Doris Benter and create a pop art themed message on canvas. Use paper, paint and Mod Podge to collage a bold and colorful statement. For children entering grades 4 to 6. Registration began July 24 – call for availability.

**Mosaic Sun Catcher** - Saturday, August 1 at 11:15 a.m.  
Join art educator Doris Benter and use colorful glass pieces to create a beautiful sun themed mosaic over a glass picture frame. For children entering grades 1 to 3. Registration began July 24 – call for availability.

**Upcycled Crafts II** - Mondays, August 3 and 10 at 3:45 p.m.  
Listen to stories and make an eco-friendly craft. For children entering grades K to 2. Registration began July 20 – call for availability.

**Tweens Night Out** - Tuesday, August 4 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Calling all tweens for a fun night out. Enjoy a library program just for kids your age entering grades 5 and 6. Topic to be announced. Registration began July 27 – call for availability.

**Fourth Grade Favorites** - Thursdays, August 6 at 7 p.m.  
Book discussion for children entering grade 4. Registration began June 22 – call for availability.

**Poppets** - Saturday, August 8  
Join a presenter from the Children's Museum of Long Island and learn the ancient art of puppetry. You’ll design your own stick puppets, learn verbal and written storytelling techniques and showcase your performance in a pop-up theatre. For children entering grades 4 to 6 at 10 a.m. For children entering grades 1 to 3 at 11:30 a.m. Registration began July 31 – call for availability.

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**Early Childhood**

**Mosaic Scatter Painting** - Saturday, August 1 at 1 p.m.  
Join art educator Doris Benter for a fun parent and child art project. Children will enjoy developing their fine motor skills as they select and press mosaic tile pieces, beads and gems into glue on canvas for a stunning result. For children ages 3 ½ to 5 with an adult. Registration began July 24 – call for availability.

**Stay and Play II** - Mondays, August 3 and 10 at 10:30 a.m.  
Visit with other parents and caregivers while your baby plays with age-appropriate toys. For children ages birth to 12 months. Registration began July 20 – call for availability.

**Pajama Story Time** - Wednesday, August 5 at 7 p.m.  
Come in pajamas and listen to bedtime stories. For children ages 3 to 6 years with an adult. No registration required.

**Baby Rhyme Time** - Thursdays, August 6 and 13 at 10:30 a.m.  
Enjoy books, songs, music, fingerplays and more. For children ages birth to 17 months with an adult. No registration required.

**Park Story Time** - Fridays, August 7 and 14 at 10:30 a.m.  
For children ages 5 years and under with an adult. Meets at the Blumenfeld Family Park (adjacent to the Landmark). If weather is inclement, story time will be held in the Children's Room at 10:40 a.m. No registration required.

**Every Animal Has a Hero** - Wednesday, August 12 at 1 p.m.  
Join Jason Reilly from Green Meadows Farm II and learn where certain animals live, what they eat, when they sleep and how they protect themselves. You’ll meet Stickers the tree frog, Tickles the hedgehog and Cheeks the chinchilla. This is a hands-on activity in which children will be able to pet the animals. For children ages 3 ½ to 5 with an adult. Registration begins August 3.
**TEENSPACE**

for grades seven through twelve

**Teen Summer Workshops**

Registration for all workshops is in progress. Register in Teenspace, by phone at 516-883-4400, ext. 148 or online at pwpl.org/teenspace. Workshops are open to Port teens entering grades 7 through 12 as of September 2015. All teen workshops are co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Summer Reading Club**

Through August 12

There is still time to join the fun! Read magazines, websites and books and write a mini review to win prizes. You can even submit reviews online!

**Wii U**

August 5 at 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a fun afternoon of gaming with us. Games to be determined.

**MUVChat**

August 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Bring your cell phone and text your comments, which will appear on the screen as we watch The Maze Runner film. No cell phone? Come enjoy the film with us.

**Manga Café**

August 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Discuss your favorite manga and graphic novels with us over tasty snacks. Bring your favorite manga along or check out some of our titles in TeenSpace.

**Save the Date!**

**SAT vs. ACT**

September 15 from 7 to 8 p.m.

Which test is right for you? This workshop will teach students and parents the differences between the new SAT and the ACT and provide a sampling of the types of questions that appear on each test. Students will leave the session having a better sense of the amount of studying they may need to prepare for the exams. C2 Education will lead this workshop. No registration required.

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**Coming in August: iMacs!**

Teens will have access to the latest Macs, overflowing with software for music, movies, photos, website and app development, animation, publishing and more. Apple software provides easy-to-use creative tools like GarageBand and iMovie, as well as useful productivity apps like Numbers and Keynote. Adobe Creative Cloud gives you access to the creativity software the pros use: the latest versions of Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Premiere Pro, Audition and more. It’s all here, and all for teens!

Food Allergy Disclaimer: Participants concerned about food allergies need to be aware of this risk. The Port Washington Public Library will not assume any liability for adverse reactions to foods consumed or items one may come in contact with while eating at any of our programs.