



Killingworth Library Newsletter

A publication of the Killingworth Library Association

Box 725

Killingworth, Connecticut 06419

Spring / Summer 2006

First John P. Hine, Jr., Memorial Golf Tournament

Save June 12, 2006, as the date for playing golf and helping the library. Shelly Cumpstone, along with Lauren Blaha, fund-raising committee chairperson for the library board, and former board member Michele Albert, is organizing an all-day event at the Clinton Country Club to raise money for the library's operating budget.

Beginning with a barbeque lunch at 11:00 A.M. and continuing through 18 holes of golf and a buffet dinner, the tournament will include raffles and contests and beverages on the course.

Several months ago when the library was in need of a major fund-raiser for the year, Shelly developed the idea of the golf tournament. The committee then decided to honor John Hine by naming the event for the library board's past president who died in early January, just a year after completing 14 years of service to KLA. A native of Killingworth, John left the town for college, working afterward in Pittsburgh and New York State. He returned to Killingworth in 1991, joining the library board at that



John P. Hine, Jr.

time and contributing his talents until his retirement from the board.

The committee is still accepting reservations. The cost for lunch, golf, and dinner is \$175 per golfer. Dinner is also available for spouses or guests at an additional cost of \$50 each. For more information and to register a foursome to play, call Shelly Cumpstone at 663-2747. May 15 is the deadline for payments.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the library. The tournament will replace the recently retired Silent Auction fundraiser.

A Thank You to the Killingworth Community

After 10 years in its spectacular new home, the Killingworth Library has become a cornerstone of our community. The dedications of the town, the library's patrons, residents, contributing groups and volunteers have made the library a successful and valuable resource for the town. Dozens of volunteers contribute scores of man-hours weekly to staff the circulation desk, sort books, clean gardens, fundraise, assist the board and oversee programs; annually the town has approved a generous proportion of the library's budget; patrons purchase used books and donate dollars and change to boost the library's DVD collection; generous residents and groups support our Annual Fund, the Endowment Fund, pizza delivery nights, book sales and other large and small operations done by and for the library.

For all this assistance and more, the library board thanks all of YOU. We as a board will continue to work hard for the future of the Killingworth Library. We ask that you continue to support YOUR library in every way you can.

Please visit and enjoy the Killingworth Library soon and please come often.

Nancy Bradley, KLA President, and the Board of Directors

Annual Fund Goal: \$21,000
Total so far: \$17,530

Library Seeks Interest in Homebound Program

The Library Association is planning to conduct a pilot program for book delivery to homebound residents. We are currently determining how much interest and need there is in the community for such a service. If you are homebound and would like to take part in our pilot program, please call the library at 663-2000 and ask for Head Librarian Tammy Eustis.

To Reach the Library

Circulation Desk 663-2000

Fax 860-663-2783

Website www.killingworthlibrary.org

Note:

Library closed May 20 for computer update.

Library Goals 2006

- Investigate additional ways to raise funds.
- Post all policies and giving opportunities on the web site.
- Develop a long-range plan.
- Expand KLA as a multi-media center.
- Strive to become the Best Small Town Library in America.
- Upgrade library network technology.
- Renovate the meeting room.

BOOKSTACK

by Tammy Eustis
Head Librarian



One recent evening at home, I came to a halt at the top of the stairs and called down to my parents, "Have I been at the library a whole year already?!" "One year yesterday," my mom replied. Nice to know someone was keeping track...

How does one measure a year of library work? Twelve displays in the cabinet; eleven board meetings; twenty-six payrolls; one annual state report; a blur of survey committee, long-range planning committee, and various budget committee meetings; 36,028 patrons through the door; 67,359 items checked out; and 1,069 reference questions answered. Plus numerous Tuesday mornings that left my ears ringing with the refrain of "Chicken Soup with Rice" (as belted out by Margie and her enthusiastic fans).

As I record these highlights, I'm flipping through my desk calendar from last year. My first day on the job began with a scribbled note to update the staff information on the library's webpage, entering myself in the spot of Head Librarian. I never checked that task off -- maybe I was too shocked by the reality? But yes, my name is on there (and yes, I had to double-check just now). From that point, the calendar is a solid mass of black and red ink, with yellow, pink, and green highlights for the "important" items: "Call if Internet still down"; "Renew magazines"; "Set mousetraps"; "Transfer library holdings to ReQuest"; "Order paper towels." Few days go by without a note, and the pages turn with a stiff crackle from months of accumulated ink.

For 365 evenings, my dad has greeted me with "So what did you do today?," a question that has drawn every response from a disbelieving snort to a despairing silence followed by "...I don't remember!!!" Most days are worth hashing over with Mom, who never fails to point out that she did my job *plus* circulation, cataloging, etc. etc. when she worked as Chester's librarian. They both keep me humble.

Assuming that I get gas in my car once every two weeks (did I mention the awesome commute?), I have enjoyed twenty-six days of "librarian jokes" from Al at West Main Garage in Chester. He was particularly fascinated by the idea that people *go to school* to learn this job. "What the heck do they offer? Advanced Shushing?" I've had just as many conversations with the well-meaning librarian-wanna-be's, whose inevitable catch-phrase is: "It must be *so* nice to sit and read all day!" Yeah. It must be. (Number of books I've read in the past year: 20. That's a 42% drop from my usual amount, but who's counting?)

All post-its, paperwork, and peripherals aside, I am constantly reminded that the library is a living, vibrant entity and that it also experiences the varied cycles of life that can't easily be counted: births and deaths, marriages and divorces, graduations and first days of school. I have said "Hello" and "Welcome" just as many times as I have said "Bon voyage" and "Goodbye." The community grows, shifts, and changes, and so too does the library, and I have enjoyed every moment of trying to keep up.

SCALES + TALES," the 2006 Summer Reading Program.

Saturday, June 24, at 2:00 we'll travel around the world in search of amazing animals with **FULL EFFECT PRODUCTIONS** featuring George the parrot and Vinny the viper. Packed with magic and comedy, this new program was designed specifically to go along with this year's theme. Following the performance children will be able to sign up for the Summer Reading Program, receive their materials, and take home books to read.

Think of the pet possibilities as we decide which **FURRY, SLIMY, HAIRY** animal gets our vote in our "ADOPT A CRITTER" program. Just follow the **MEOWS, CACKLES, RUFFS AND SCREECHES** into the Children's Room for a summer filled with cute and cuddly, creepy and crazy creatures!

Gayle Byrne, Children's Librarian

Library Program Thrives

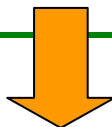
Paws and Read continues to be an ongoing part of children's programming at the Killingworth Library. On Saturday mornings before regular hours, in a cozy corner of the children's room, you will find a youngster with a book and a broad smile reading aloud to "Doc," an attentive Australian shepherd. Also present are several small stuffed dogs observing the activity as future "Docs"-in-training. One of these little



observers will go home with the child at the end of the session.

An innovative teaching technique, **Paws and Read** features certified therapy dogs and their handlers. Its aim is to improve children's literacy skills one book, one child, and one dog at a time. The program seeks to "foster a love of

SUMMER READING PROGRAM



**!! CLAWS, PAWS,
SCALES + TAILS !!**
at the
**KILLINGWORTH
LIBRARY**

"Can we get a puppy, a kitty, a gerbil or snake? Please? Please?? PLEEEZ???" Most, if not all, children want a pet at some point during their childhood. Check out the fun this summer as we explore the themes of wanting a pet, choosing a pet, and caring for a pet. Pre-readers and children entering first through sixth grades in the fall are invited to participate in "**CLAWS, PAWS,**

"Paws and Read" continued

reading through a loving child and animal relationship."

Once a week for four weeks, each participating child (ages 6-8) selects a book to read aloud to a certified companion (in our case, Doc) for a twenty-minute period. The dog's handler sits nearby to guide the session but is minimally involved. Connie Connor, Doc's loving owner, explains, "Children are motivated to read because they tell us reading to dogs is fun. The dogs bring a wonderful combination of kindness, curiosity, and patience to the task of reading."

Connie wrote the *Paws and Read Manual* for Connecticut, and the program was piloted in Essex in February of 2003. It came to the Killingworth Library that fall and has been a wonderful part of children's programming ever since. **Paws and Read** is a completely volunteer organization affiliated with Peaceful Paws, Inc., which offers training and certification for therapy dogs and their partners in our area. The National Delta Society is the umbrella organization that provides insurance, standards, training, and certification for the pet team.

Children's librarian Gayle Byrne handles the logistics of the library setting, and Gail Bergen, Reading Specialist at KES, with staff input, selects the students. The Killingworth Paws and Read Program has become a model for area libraries.

Doc, like many teachers, will enjoy a summer vacation after his latest session. But he will be back on duty in the fall, patient, loving, and wise as ever.

Kathleen Amoia

Book Sales

Several times a year, the library raises money by holding a used book sale, selling materials donated but not needed in the library.

In good weather, the sale is held outdoors. On August 5 this year, the library board will include a tag sale element to the book sale, selling plots in the adjacent field where residents can set up their wares. Details will be available soon.

The next book sale is Saturday, May 13, from 9 to 3.

Want to help the library? Here are some ways—

--Volunteer your time. There is a multitude of ways in which you can help, from working at the desk, sorting donated books, shelving books, maintaining the plantings outside, working at a book sale, delivering pizzas when we run that fund raiser, etc. Some jobs are regular weekly commitments, but some can be done at your leisure.

--Donate to the Annual Fund.

--Donate to the Endowment Fund.

--Check the latest Wish List for items to donate. You will find this list below.

Tammy's Wish List

Head Librarian Tammy Eustis has compiled a wish list of items the library needs. If you care to donate such an item, please contact her.

- new digital camera
- dry-erase marker set for use with our dry erase board
- new sandwich board with letters, for outdoor announcements
- DVD player for use with the meeting room TV
- donations toward a Listening Center in the children's room. We are hoping to set up a table with a CD player, head-phones, and books on CD.

KLA Sponsors Winter Programs

Many townspeople took advantage of library programs during the winter months.

Amy Nixon, a Killingworth resident and accomplished knitter, voluntarily developed a Winter Woolies program to teach knitting to beginners. A group comprised of all ages, from elementary school students to seniors, took advantage of Amy's very successful program.



In addition, Children's Librarian Gayle Byrne ran a Readers and Eaters group for children. A dinner of pizza donated by Apizza Tuscana began each session, followed by discussion of a book all the group members had read.

A third program was sponsored by the Connecticut Humanities Council and led by Mary K. Bercaw Edwards from the Mystic Seaport Museum. The adult reading group read four books on the theme, Voyage: Stories of Men, Women, and the Sea. The first session included a surprise visit by author David Hays whose book was featured that evening.

Pizza Delivery Nights

The library's successful pizza delivery nights will be repeated on May 13 and June 10.

Call Apizza Tuscana (663-2256) and order your favorite pizza, salad, or whatever you choose for delivery to your home. A representative of the library will make the delivery to your door for the cost of your order plus a \$5.00 donation to the Killingworth Library.

This is a win/win situation for everyone. You get home delivery, and the library benefits from a quick and easy fundraiser.

WHAT'S NEW
in the
CHILDREN'S ROOM
??
**COMPUTER
GAMES**
Look for the bright yellow
bags
&
check 'em out

The Technology Corner



The library will be upgrading its server this spring. The current server is nearly six years old and has limited functionality as well as the inability to run state-of-the-art software needed to help our library expand.

The installation of the new server will bring many benefits. A few of them are as follows:

--The operating system will be a Windows 2003 server which has increased functionality and improved security.

--The server will run with more speed and be able to handle more requests faster.

--The library will be able to run the software that is critical to the daily functions of the institution and be able to handle software upgrades where needed.

--With improved reliability and a more secure network, the library staff can continue to focus on its patrons and their requests.

Other upgrades in the works for the next fiscal year will be slip printers and a new copying machine.

Technology is expensive and always changing and the Killingworth Library board and staff are committed to keeping up with the technology curve, but it can be done only in steps, such as the installation of the wireless access point last year.

The library also changed from Internet Explorer 6 to Firefox as its browser of choice and installed new workstations during the early part of 2005.

Things will continue to evolve and when they do, we will keep you informed.

Vinny Bongiovanni

Endowment Donors

The library extends a sincere thank you to the following people for their donations to the Endowment Fund. These donations are not used in the operating budget but are kept in an interest- and dividend-bearing account. The principal remains intact; however, a percentage of that income is taken each year and transferred to the operating account.

Our goal is to continue increasing the endowment fund to help us achieve greater self-sufficiency.

Kathleen Amoia
 Lou and Carol Annino
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 Marty Whittle
 Karol Winograd
 Virginia Wohlstrom
 John Zenie
 Jay Zygmont

Upcoming Library Events

May 13 Book Sale
 May 13 Pizza delivery night
 June 10 Pizza delivery night
 June 12 John P. Hine, Jr.,
 Memorial Golf Tournament
 August 5 Book Sale and Tag Sale

Library Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
 Saturday
 10:00-4:30
 Tuesday, Thursday
 10:00-8:00

KILLINGWORTH LIBRARY STAFF

Tammy Eustis.....Head Librarian
 Gayle Byrne.....Children's Librarian
 Lauren Davis.....Assistant Librarian
 Janis Leird...Technical Services Assistant
 Ben Chase..... Circulation Assistant

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