

BROWSE



Bayard Taylor Memorial Library Newsletter – September 2010

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Heard in the library this summer: “I never knew a library was so cool!” “Mom, I really want to have a library card!” “Wow, thanks for helping me with that. You guys are awesome.” “Legos in the library? You guys are cool!”

Happy faces and exclamations of joy remind me why I became a librarian. And this summer I had the chance to portray Miss Alice Swayne (see picture) who brought the joy of books to Kennett Square in 1896 as the first librarian of Bayard Taylor Memorial Library.

Children had the wonderful opportunity to learn about reptiles and amphibians, see them up close, even touch them at The Ashland Nature Center program held at the library this summer. (One young lady was quite fond of the snake that educator Becca had brought along.) This program, in memory of Marge Lotter, was particularly special as Mrs. Lotter was a volunteer with the Special Events Committee for years and organized the children’s programming major fundraiser, The Home & Garden Tour. Her husband Bill remarked that Marge would have loved this program as it combined education and the library. It certainly was a mix of fun and education as nearly 100 children attended two sessions experiencing turtles, frogs (including the biggest bullfrog I’ve ever seen in my life), a gecko and a snake.

Now we move into fall and the fun continues. A Lego club that started in the summer keeps building. For adults, a number of authors will visit the library for book discussions, both fiction and non-fiction. A Community Shred event is planned for Saturday, Sept. 25, so save your sensitive documents and shred them at the library beginning at 9 a.m. We are also planning an Open House on Friday, Oct. 1 at 5 p.m. that will include a Technology Petting Zoo.

We will be launching a library-card drive for National Library Month in September. You might have heard that libraries are replacing cupcakes as the new *in* thing. So get a library card and find out how we can serve you!

Donna Murray

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE ADVISORY TEAM

The library’s Board of Trustees relied on the Advisory Team who contributed their expertise with an impartial, objective view and provided research and documented information, to assist in comparing sites for the new library in and out-side the Borough.

Working with this group of professionals has been informative, rewarding, and a privilege. The library is truly fortunate and deeply grateful to have received the time, expertise and commitment the Advisory Team members volunteered to this unique and challenging project. With sincere appreciation from all of us at the library, **THANK YOU.**

THE TEAM

Chair, Dennis C. Melton, A.I.A. Melton Architects, Architect
Vice-Chair, Mary Anna Ralph, Urban Planner
Joseph G. Riper, Esq., Riley Riper Hollin & Colagreco, Real Estate Attorney
Russ Richardson, Richardson Associates, Developer
Richard Basilio, MOBAC, Inc., General Contractor
Steve Woodward, Advanced GeoServices, Civil Engineer
Eva Verplanck, Fundraising

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THE LITTLE LIBRARY THAT COULD



For over a hundred years, the children's classic, *The Little Engine that Could* has taught children the values of optimism, hard work, and perseverance and given today's challenges, can be considered a metaphor for our Bayard Taylor Memorial Library: the little engine that pulls a community over the economic hurdles of trying times. During 106,008 visits to the library annually more than 150,000 items are circulated, children are engulfed in stories, literacy classes improve lives, research opens new doors, computers access new worlds and more. But this is where the metaphor ends, because a library cannot operate solely on its determination, "I think I can." The library is fueled by private and public funding with the latter being a formula between the state, municipalities, the library's own efforts and a decreasing pool of funds during a recession. Your help is needed to stoke this little engine. How can you help? Show your value for the library by making a contribution on-line at www.bayardtaylor.org, bring a donation to the circulation desk, or mail one to the library. Whether your contribution is \$25 or \$100, each donation to our annual appeal helps BTML—our little engine—to enrich lives and our community. Hop on board today! (For information on making honorary or memorial gifts to the library, contact Donna Murray, 610-444-2702.)

WONDERFUL AND UNUSUAL MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY

The library's movie catalog is always expanding. We are continuously updating our shelves to include all the new releases as soon as they are available, but, perhaps less noticeably, our classics, independent, and foreign selections grow as well. This fall, once you've re-watched those summer blockbusters, you might look beside them and find a title you forgot about, never heard about, or just something different. Some recent additions worth your attention include:



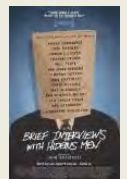
Le Cercle Rouge



Underground



Terribly Happy



Brief Interviews with Hideous Men

See what you can find beside your favorite films.

BOOK GROUPS @ BTML



This past summer, the library hosted three reading groups: adult reading, children's summer reading, and international fiction. Each was met with an enthusiastic group of readers. All of us here at the library were excited to see familiar readers as well as newcomers. The children's series, as always, drew a large crowd, while our two adult groups introduced avid readers to some unusual authors from around the world and thought-provoking non-fiction.

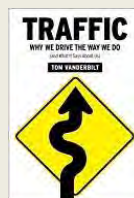
Mark your calendars and come join us this fall!



The Secret of Lies

Discussion with Author
Barbara Forte Abate

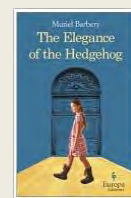
Thursday, Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 27 at 9:30 a.m.



Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (And What It Says About Us)

By Tom Vanderbilt

Monday, Oct. 25 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m.



The Elegance of the Hedgehog

By Muriel Barbery

Monday, Nov. 22 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

A GUIDE FOR THE CURIOUS BOOK LOVER

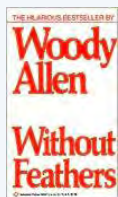
THE BEST BOOKS YOU'VE NEVER READ, JUST MISSED, OR ALMOST FORGOTTEN

BY TONY DEL VECCHIO



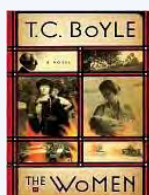
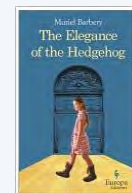
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT by **Sebastien Japrisot** This novel tells the story of five French soldiers who are sent to their own front lines to be tossed out into no-man's land. They were all convicted of trying to leave the war by shooting themselves in the foot or hand. Later, five bodies were recovered and the families notified, including Mathilde Donnay, the fiancée of one of the condemned men, a fisherman named Manech. Mathilde has been confined to a wheelchair since she was a young child, but was deeply in love with Manech. She later receives information that leads her to believe that he isn't really dead after all. Thus begins her long search into the mysterious circumstances surrounding those deaths. Mathilde is probably one of the most compelling characters you will encounter in modern fiction, and Japrisot managed to write an almost perfect novel. The movie adaptation of this book is also terrific.

A LONG LONG WAY by **Sebastian Barry** The author tells the story of Ireland's entry into World War I through the eyes of one young soldier, Willie Dunne. Willie wanted to become a policeman, like his father, but was under six feet tall, the minimum height requirement, so he joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. His group is sent to fight against the Germans. He learns that most of his fellow soldiers are there because they expect that their participation will further the attainment of Home Rule in Ireland. Willie has no such hopes; in fact, he is essentially non-political. He went to prove to his father that he was a brave lad. On his return, he is confronted with both sides of the issue of Home Rule and is pulled in both directions by his family and friends. What Willie has to learn to do is to think for himself. One of the characters in the book says to Willie: "The curse of the world is people thinking thoughts that are only thoughts which have been given to them. They're not their own thoughts. They're like cuckoos in their heads. Their own thoughts are tossed out and cuckoo thoughts put in instead," Set amidst the horrors of war and the violence of the Irish question, Willie has to learn to think for himself.



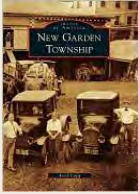
WITHOUT FEATHERS by **Woody Allen** I have found Woody Allen to be a polarizing personality; you either love him or you can't stand him. This work, his second collection of short pieces, was published before he became a celebrated film director/writer, and represents material that he might have used in his stand-up routines in front of the usual college crowds. Back then he was neither important nor an icon. He was just a very hip comic. His imagination knows no bounds, and he can see humor in the most mundane things and take off on his flights of fancy to embellish them. If you share my appreciation of intelligent, and sometimes silly or off-the-wall humor, you will find yourself at least smiling – if not laughing out loud – at most of the short pieces included here.

THE ELEGANCE OF THE HEDGEHOG by **Muriel Barbery** I thought I had made an independent discovery with this novel, but later learned that it was one of the best-selling books ever in the independent book stores. It goes like this: Renee Michel is the 54-year-old concierge of a small apartment building in Paris. The residents normally ignore Renee as they pass her booth everyday, unless they need something from her. Paloma Josse is one of the residents of the building. She is 12-years old, but has the mind and thoughts of a much older girl. She thinks that most things around her are absurd and keeps a log of her thoughts in her diary. She is so depressed by life that she makes plans to kill herself on her 13th birthday. Early on in the book, you find a double narrative – one from each of these two characters. Then, the two meet and begin a relationship that changes both of their lives. You will literally fall in love with both of the characters and be carried along by their mutual admiration and their frank conversations. I liken Paloma to a young, Parisian, female Holden Caulfield. She is definitely French, as is Renee, and manages to think in a Continental way.



THE WOMEN by **T. C. Boyle** When you think of The Prairie School of Architecture or "Falling Waters," who do you think of? The answer, of course, is Frank Lloyd Wright. Boyle's novel, though, focuses on the women in Frank Lloyd Wright's life as told by a fictional Japanese apprentice, as opposed to examining his career. It reads like a biography, like fiction, like a fantasy. Four of the women in Wright's life are examined – in reverse chronological order. There isn't much about his art, but with all of these women around you can't fit everything into one book. Did they have much effect on his art? Hard to say, at least as they are portrayed in this novel. All of his women were 'different' in different ways, - one might even classify them as eccentric - but all were extremely attracted to Wright and he to them – for a while. This is one of those novels that you will find hard to put down.

AUTHOR VISITS @BTML



Thursday, September 9,
Keith Craig
*New Garden Township (in the
Images of America series)*

Saturday, October 2,
Carolyn Viens
*Leave Your Footprints
Along the Way: A
Discussion Workbook for
Mothers and Daughters*



October 16,
Gene Pisasale
*Lafayette's Gold: The Lost
Brandywine Treasures*

Saturday, November 6,
Barbara Forte Abate
The Secret of Lies



THE DANSKO FOUNDATION GRANT

This summer, The Dansko Foundation made a generous donation to the library's children's program. We are grateful for the opportunity this gives us to expand our activities and events. Throughout the summer months, the library participates in not only its own programming for children but also a number of outreach programs in collaboration with other service organizations. For example, with Together-4-Education the library runs a summer camp for children, and with COSECHA we offer literacy programs for children from mushroom-farming neighborhoods. The library prides itself on the quality of the programming offered and also on the value it brings to participating children and their families. Thank you to The Dansko Foundation for their support and generosity.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE October 1 - Featuring Technology Petting Zoo



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL LIBRARY MONTH

Bayard Taylor Memorial Library encourages everyone to check out what's new at the library by signing up for a library card. BTML offers more than just books - we have DVDs, CDs, computers, free Internet access, and story hours and other fun, exciting, and educational programs for children and adults. Parents, remember that a library card is the most important school supply of all. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

Banned Books Week September 25 – October 2

Each year, librarians, booksellers, teachers and countless others take this opportunity to highlight the importance of intellectual freedom and remind us not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. **Sample of**

Books Challenged or Banned in 2009–2010: Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Anne Frank, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*; Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*; Merriam-Webster Editorial Staff, *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*; Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight* series; and Jeannette Walls, *The Glass Castle: A Memoir*



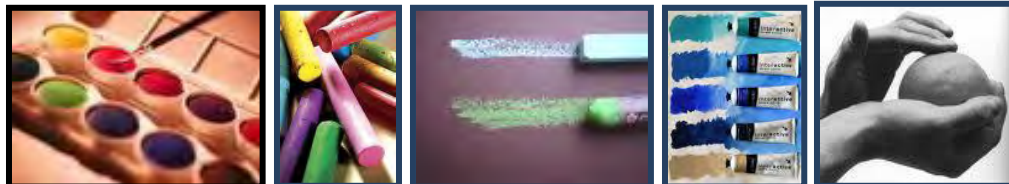
KIDS' CORNER



TUMBLEBOOKS

Interactive ebooks for kids, TumbleBooks are animated, talking picture books in English, Spanish and French that have been created from existing picture books from well-known publishers and authors. Visit bayardtaylor.org and click on the TumbleBooks icon.

FUN WITH ART



Tuesday nights September 14 through November 9 at 6:15 p.m.

Each week, the kids will experiment with a different medium: watercolor, pastels, acrylics, clay, etc. It's not just painting on paper. It's free play, kids create as they are inspired.

LEGO CLUB



Every other Wednesday September 22 through December 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Children of all ages are welcome to come and create the library's collection of legos. It's free play - kids build whatever they like. Results are displayed throughout the library.

STAR WARS TRIVIA



Saturday, October 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Are you a master Jedi? Come battle with other Star Wars fans to test your knowledge. And remember: Do or do not? There is no try.

Story Time



**Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. for preschoolers
Fridays at 10:00 a.m. for toddlers
Fridays at 11:00 a.m. for preschoolers**



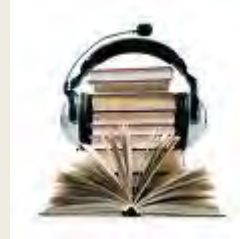
**BTML LUCKY
BENEFICIARY OF
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**



Scout Justin Murphy completed his Eagle Scout project - a display table for the library. What a wonderful job!

Thank you Justin!

**CHECK OUT
AN AUDIOBOOK OR EBOOK
DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER
AND YOU'LL BE AUTOMATICALLY
ENTERED TO WIN A MP3 PLAYER!**



Be 1 of 10 lucky winners to receive a FREE 2GB Creative MuVo T200 MP3 player!

The more you listen/read, the better your chances of winning!
Visit bayardtaylor.org and click on the icon for more information.

BAYARD TAYLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

216 East State Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348



WEBSITE

bayardtaylor.org

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

TELEPHONE

(610) 444-2702
(610) 444-2988

LITERACY

(610) 444-9118