

RICHMOND READINGS

The Newsletter of The Richmond Memorial Library • Marlborough, Connecticut 06447
www.richmondlibrary.info 860/295-6210

Winter 2008

Our Winter Reading Programs —

Baby It's Cold Outside... Let's Stay In and Read

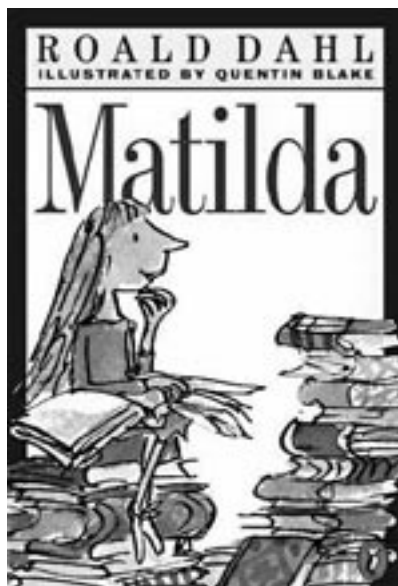
Winter's here and what's better than being inside with a good book? Well, we could say sharing that good book. We have scheduled some winter activities around our favorite activity – reading.

On February 12 we invite all area book clubs to our Book Club Open House. This is your chance to talk about how fabulous your group is, what you have read, what you would recommend and how your group is run. Please email your books you have read list ahead of time to nwood@richmondlibrary.info and we will distribute the compilation that evening. This casual and fun night is also great for those looking for a group to join and we provide the refreshments.

A Book, A Movie and A

Pizza @ Your Library will run two sessions for children. *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, for ages 8 and up will be viewed on February 19 at 2 PM. *Matilda* is a super-smart little girl who's woefully misunderstood by her parents, her brother, and an evil school principal. With support from a teacher and friend, she doesn't get mad, she gets even.

Stardust by Neil Gaiman is for ages 13 and older and it will be shown in the library on February 19 at 4:30 PM. *Publisher's Weekly* says about *Stardust*: Tristran Thorn falls in love with the prettiest girl in town and makes her a foolish promise: he says that he'll go find the falling star they both watched streak across the night sky. She says she'll marry him if he finds it, so he sets off, leaving his home of Wall, and heads out into the perilous land of faerie, where not everything is what it appears. Gaiman is known for his fanciful wit, sterling prose and wildly imaginative plots, and *Stardust* is no exception.



On February 22 there will be a *Matilda* pizza and book chat at 1 PM and a *Stardust* pizza and book chat at 3:30 PM. Spend part of February vacation watching a movie and eating pizza – at the Library! Starting in January, we will have multiple copies available for these two books, depending on your age. Read the book at home, watch the movie at the library during vacation (or at home if you borrow a copy), and then come join us for pizza as we chat (in between chewing) and decide which we liked better!

The Big Read is coming to our area and Richmond Memorial Library is a participating library. Supported by the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant awarded to Hartford Public Library, this year's selection is Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*

Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts says, "This classic detective novel (is) one of the best ever written. It's also a brilliant literary work, as well as a thriller, a love story, and a dark, dry comedy. The only criticism I would offer Hammett's private-eye classic is that it is so much fun to read, it might be hard the first time through to realize how deeply observed and morally serious it is."

Richmond Memorial Library has multiple copies of the book available. On March 20 we will be playing a special edition of *Clue* (with a *Maltese Falcon* slant) at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury followed by a book discussion. We invite you to consult The Big Read calendar for more area events.



Introducing Computer Concierge Service

Do you need a little one-on-one assistance to help you conquer your computer? Now that the holidays are over make an appointment with a librarian for a personal computer training session. For a half hour, we will give you our undivided attention to help you unlock the mysteries of the PC. Do you need help setting up an email account, want to know how to do simple searching on the Internet, create a document in Word or become master of our online card catalog? We'll help you figure it out. Best of all, you can make as many appointments as you need and it's free!

You should be familiar with a keyboard and a mouse but this is really basic help designed for those new users who want to gain some confidence in their skills. Call the library at 295-6210 for more information, or to schedule an appointment.



Calendar

January 21 – *Library Closed*, Martin Luther King Day

January 22 – Registration for Story Times begins for Marlborough Residents, 10 AM

January 22 – 12 noon, Lunch Bunch – drop in with your lunch and listen to some great stories
January 23 – Bedtime Stories for ages 3 through 6, 6:30 PM

January 26 - Free Practice SAT for area HS juniors, at Marlborough Elementary Media Center, 9 AM to 1 PM, registration required

January 28 – Registration for Story Times begins for non-residents, 10 AM

January 28 – Library Board Meeting, 7 PM

January 29 – 12 noon, Lunch Bunch – drop in with your lunch and listen to some great stories

January 30 – Bedtime Stories for ages 3 through 6, 6:30 PM

February 4 through March 20, Story Time Session I (no story time during school vacation weeks)

February 5 – **Get Crafty for Valentine's Day**, 6:30 PM for teens and adults, registration required

February 12 - **Book Club Open House**, 7 PM

February 13 – SAT follow-up at the Marlborough Senior Center, 6:30-8 PM

February 18 – *Library closed*, Presidents Day

February 19 – **A Book, A Movie and A Pizza@ Your Library**, 2 PM, MATILDA, ages 8 & up (PG)

February 19 – **A Book, A Movie and A Pizza @ Your Library**, 4:30 PM, STARDUST, ages 13 & up , (PG 13)

February 21 – RML Friends Meeting, 7 PM

February 22 – **A Book, A Movie and A Pizza @ Your Library**: Pizza and book chat for MATILDA, 1 PM

February 22 – **A Book, A Movie and A Pizza @ Your Library**: Pizza and book chat for STARDUST, 3:30 PM

March 13 – *The Maltese Falcon* film showing, come see Bogart at his best, 7 PM

March 19 – RML Friends Meeting, 7 PM

March 20 – *The Maltese Falcon* Book Discussion, 7 PM at Welles-Turner Memorial Library, 7 PM

March 24 – Registration opens for Session 2 Story Times, Marlborough residents

March 24 – RML Board Meeting, 7 PM

March 26 – Registration opens for Session 2 Story Times, non-residents

March 31 – Story Time Session 2 begins through May 15

April 17 – RML Friends Meeting, 7 PM

May 14 – RML Friends Meeting, 7 PM

May 19 – RML Annual Meeting, 7 PM, Board Meeting, 7:30 PM



Museum Pass Program

Don't go stir crazy during the winter months. Go visit some of our best area attractions with a library pass. Many thanks to the Marlborough PTO and the Richmond Memorial Library Association for their support of this program as well as the institutions who give us complimentary passes:

Children's Museum of Connecticut – Pass admits one child with each paying adult. Donated by Marlborough PTO. (Formerly called the Science Center of CT.)

ImagineNation – Pass admits four people. Donated by the RML Association.

Lutz Children's Museum – Pass admits two adults and two children at no charge. Donated by the RML Association.

Mark Twain House – One complimentary adult admission or two children's admissions with the purchase of one adult admission. Donated by Marlborough PTO.

Mystic Aquarium – Pass admits two adults and two children at a reduced rate. Compliments of the Mystic Aquarium.

Mystic Seaport – Pass admits two adults and three children or grandchildren at no charge. Donated by Marlborough PTO.

Wadsworth Atheneum – Pass admits two adults and two children (6-17) for free general admission – not valid at special shows. Compliments of the Wadsworth Atheneum.

No Child Left Inside – Connecticut State Parks & Forests – Pass admits one carload up to 12 people to any of the Connecticut's State Parks and Forests at no charge. (Not valid during winter months.) Donated by the State of Connecticut.



It's Better to Give

Many thanks to all of you who became members of the Richmond Memorial Library Association this year. Your donation to the library helps us purchase library books, DVDs, spoken books and other materials for you to borrow. If each of the 131,064 items loaned to you last year had been purchased, at an average cost of \$25.00, you would have spent \$3,276,600! The library is a private association library and even though most of our support comes from an annual grant from the Town of Marlborough to the Richmond Memorial Library, we rely on your generosity to help us with our fund raising that closes the gap between the grant and our operating budget. There's still time to become a member or renew your membership, our fund raising year closes May 31. Printable membership forms are available online. Just go to our website, www.richmondlibrary.info and click on the JOIN US link and then the link for the printable membership form.

Through the years have you accumulated or inherited shares of stock that are sitting in a brokerage account, a safe deposit box or in the desk drawer? Maybe these stocks have appreciated in value and selling them might be a taxable event. Or maybe you only have a few shares of a stock and don't want to pay a commission to sell them or spend the time and effort to set up a brokerage account. Did you know that you can 'gift' these stocks to the library as a donation? You can help the library and possibly save fees and taxes. Contact us for more information. We hope you will consider RML in your gift giving and estate planning because we'll always be here serving Marlborough.

We're Planning to Plan

In the coming year, the RML Library Board will begin to craft a new long range plan for the library. Work started last November with a brain storming session between library Board and Staff. The Board will soon be calling on community members for their input and this will be done in a variety of ways including an online survey and community forum.

"With the defeat of the library expansion project last year we need to review and revise our direction and determine our services to the community", said Library Director Nancy Wood. This will be the library's fourth long range plan since 1992. "We really do use our long range plans to help us set our direction and goals." More information will be forthcoming and we hope that you will participate.



Story Time and Your Child's Early Learning Needs

Stories, crafts, songs, and fingerplay combine for fun during story time at the Richmond Library, but there is more going on beneath the surface. Don't tell the kids, but they are learning important skills while listening, clapping, and gluing. While Ms. Eileen and Ms. Patty, at the Richmond Library, strive to make story time fun and engaging, we are also aware of children's early learning needs. Our brief visit with your children each week is a time to introduce some key concepts that will prepare preschoolers and toddlers for school.

Naturally, story time sessions reinforce pre-reading skills. Researchers have identified six primary pre-reading skills that, once mastered, prepare children to become readers when they enter school. These are:

- Print Awareness
- Phonological Sensitivity
- Narrative Skills
- Letter Knowledge
- Vocabulary
- Print Motivation

It is not necessary to understand the specifics of these concepts, except to know that you are most likely addressing each and every one in the natural course of sharing picture books.

For example, when you occasionally point out words you are building "print awareness", which is simply the understanding that the symbols on the page are being "read" and that reading (in English) occurs from left to right. Narrative skills describe the ability to understand story telling, and to recount a story with a beginning, middle and end. By sharing stories with children and asking them to tell you their stories you are developing their concept of the sequence and flow of narrative. Phonological awareness is the ability to hear and make small sounds that make up words, including rhyming syllables and nonsense words. Silly songs and rhymes are crucial in developing phonological awareness. Bouncy games, such as "Trot, Trot to Boston", and clapping games are actually important early literacy tools.

By reading a variety of books, and sharing songs and rhymes during story time at the library, we are consciously introducing and reinforcing these important skills. But story time is not simply about literacy. Story time, with books and games and crafts, also builds pre-math and science skills, as well as introduces important

social science concepts. Art and creative skills, essential for early learning, are also included in addition to fine motor skills.

Educators and researchers have begun compiling educational standards to be addressed in early years that will prepare young children for success in school. While not teachers, Ms. Eileen and Ms. Patty are aware of these standards and strive to address them in their story time sessions. For example, each time we play a matching game in story time, we are building children's math skills. Mathematical thinking is also addressed by

the concept of patterns, orally and visually. Basic scientific concepts about exploration and experimentation occur regularly with art supplies, such as mixing paints. Hands-on activities, whether felt board games or gluing various items together are all opportunities to introduce and reinforce basic science and math concepts.

Books, songs, fingerplays, a felt board game and a messy craft combine for a fun story time session at the library for your preschooler. But while singing, painting, and listening, your children are becoming learners. You can find out more about the preschool

educational standards, early literacy development, and story time at the Richmond Memorial Library. Winter/Spring story time sessions begin in February. Consult our calendar for registration dates and start times.



Credit Where Credit is Due

Donation of Shares of Stock given by Barbara and Jim Montstream in memory of Betty and Ed Montstream
Nica and Nick LaMantia – Donation of children's book
Laura and Dan Gutt – Donation given in memory of Helen Brodell

Mary-Jane Traska – Donation for children's books
WIN Investment Club – Donation for adult materials
Sara's Home Childcare – Donation of family movie DVD
David Porteous – Donation of adult books
Linda Rajpolt – Donation of children's music compact discs

Our many friends who brought us wonderful treats over the holidays - thanks!

