

# HAMDEN LIBRARY NEWS

Nov/Dec 2009  
Volume 2, Issue 6

Miller Memorial Central Library · 2901 Dixwell Avenue · 287-2680  
Brundage Community Branch · 91 Circular Avenue · 287-2675  
Whitneyville Branch · 125 Carleton Street · 287-2677

## At the World's Table

by Linda Nevas, Literacy Volunteer

Being a tutor for an ESOL (English as a Second Language) conversation class is a unique and rewarding experience. After more than a year of teaching, I would like to share some thoughts about my class and introduce some snapshots of our fascinating international students. The class meets for about 2 hours on Friday mornings at the Miller Memorial Library. Usually we start with a brief topic for an opening discussion; then we move to a planned activity based on a current holiday, an aspect of American culture or government, or a group reading and vocabulary practice. Frequently we divide into pairs to write about a topic and then discuss what we've written with a partner. Students enjoy participating in the class and sharing with each other. Some are taking initiative. Ahn, an artist from South Korea contributed a large collection of proverbs in Korean and English for use by the class. Ahn has described his childhood in rural, impoverished South Korea at the time of the Korean War. Leyla, a young woman from Iran, baked a traditional cinnamon cake for us. Eleana, a physician from Siberia, prepared a Russian breakfast of caviar



on bread for us and presented a delightful slide show on her vacation in the Dominican Republic. Poonsi, a 65-year old Thai woman who wants to become a U.S. citizen, taught us about Chinese astrology and tells fascinating stories about growing up in rural Thailand.

Not only are students learning to converse in English and function better in their lives, the more they talk with each other, the better they seem to feel. Activities such as talking on the telephone, getting directions, understanding advertisements and filling out a job application are included along with standard pronunciation, vocabulary, writing and reading aloud. The ESOL class provides a support system which assists students to integrate into American life. I feel greatly enriched by knowing and helping them.

*Ed. Note: ESOL Conversation classes meet weekly both at Miller Library and Brundage Community Branch. Additionally, the library has recently added MANGO online language learning capabilities to its website (See Online Toolbox, page 2.) Ask a librarian to help you find print sources to assist language learning at all Hamden Library locations.*

### *Library Holiday Closings:*

**Wednesday, November 25:  
CLOSING AT 5 PM**

**Thursday, November 26:  
CLOSED**

**Thursday, December 24 &  
Friday, December 25:  
CLOSED**

**Thursday, December 31  
& Friday, January 1:  
CLOSED**

## Online Toolbox



The Hamden Public Library provides a variety of online services to its patrons, a majority of which can be accessed from home via the Internet. In each issue the newsletter profiles one of these services. Ask library staff for a demonstration or help with any of our online services or databases.

### TITLE: MANGO

**LANGUAGES:** Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Japanese, French, Italian, Greek, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, ESL Spanish, ESL Polish and ESL Mandarin Chinese

**HOW TO USE:** On the opening page for Mango you will be given an opportunity to create a profile using your library card number and other basic information, including the creation of a password. Employing the profile will allow you to track the progress of your learning and to pick up where you left off in a previous session. After creating your profile you can move on to choosing the language you want to study. You will need Javascript enabled and Adobe Flashplayer installed on your computer to proceed to the lessons which give both visual and auditory cues for the phrases and vocabulary to be learned.

## Growing Demand for Large Print

In response to the growing population of people who can benefit from using large print publications, and thanks to generous donations from the Hamden Rotary Club, the Hamden Libraries continue to expand their large print collections.

Although large print titles have been widely regarded for the benefits they provide individuals with vision problems, they can also benefit young people who are reluctant readers, anyone with dyslexia or other learning disabilities, children reading beyond their grade level, but struggling with the type-size of more advanced material, as well as a growing population of readers who simply prefer the ease of a larger typeface.

With 150 million Americans wearing some form of corrective eyewear, and a growing number of people dealing with vision problems, the benefit of large print is growing.

“Most of us know someone who has lost the enjoyment of reading from diminished vision,” said Irene Nolan, Head of Public Services. “Large print books bring the joy of reading back by offering popular titles in an easy-to-read, light-weight format and we appreciate the help we receive from the Rotarians to build our collection.”

## Noteworthy:

**Book Discussion:** Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. Book discussions are held in the Friends' Room.

**Staff Transitions & Milestones:** In recent months Jean Carolla retired from her position as LTA in Technical Services and Library Page Rebecca Coates was promoted to LTA to fill the vacancy. Irene Nolan, Head of Public Services, celebrates 25 years of service to the Hamden Public Library in November. Congratulations to all.

**Holiday donations:** In addition to its annual mitten, toy and food bank collections for the holidays, the library will partner with Quinnipiac Bank & Trust Company to collect winter coats for the needy. Watch for details.

Publication of *The Hamden Library News* is funded by the Hamden Library Board. It is printed on recycled paper.

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Help the library and the environment:  
Sign-up for *The Hamden Library News* in your e-mail.  
Ask for a form at any public service desk.

### The Mission of The Hamden Public Library

The Hamden Public Library, the community's information center, provides a variety of library resources, access to innovative technology and a knowledgeable staff to improve the quality of life and meet the informational, educational and cultural interests of the entire Hamden community.

## At the Branches

### Brundage Community Branch

91 Circular Avenue, 287-2675

*Drop-in Storytimes:* Mondays at 10:30 am

*English Conversation Group:* Mondays 10:15-11:45 am

*Nutmeg Reader's Discussion:* Thurs, Nov 5, 4 pm

*\*P.A.C.K. Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt* Thurs, Nov 19, 4 pm

*Nutmeg Reader's Discussion:* Thurs, Dec 10, 4 pm

*\*P.A.C.K. Holiday Activities & Crafts:* Thurs, Dec 17, 4 pm

*\*Registration required.*

### Whitneyville Branch

125 Carleton Street, 287-2677

*Drop-in Storytimes:* Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m.

*Pre-school Hanukkah Activities:* Thurs, Dec 10, 10:30 am

*Christmas Craft (ages 5 and up):* Thurs, Dec 17, 4 pm

*Pre-school Yoga Classes:* TBA

*Mommy & Me Music Activity:* TBA

## Keeping Up With the Neighbors

Library users often comment about the differences they see in collections & services among the various libraries they visit. Here are figures from the most recent (2007-2008) Connecticut State Library Statistical Profile regarding number of items in the libraries' collections and the square footage of the main library building in Hamden and nearby towns. (Hours open per week were retrieved from each library's website to provide the most current information.)

	Collection	Sq. Footage	Hrs / wk
Cheshire	117,506	32,600	63
Hamden	225,614	42,000	59.5
Meriden	249,509	52,000	55.5
North Haven	112,423	29,450	58
Wallingford	224,993	68,000	65

## HotFlashes!!!

Forthcoming books by your favorite authors. Reserve a copy today.

### November

Stephen King	<i>Under the Dome</i>
James Patterson	<i>I, Alex Cross</i>
J.D. Robb	<i>Kindred in Death</i>
Philip Roth	<i>The Humbling</i>
Barbara Kingsolver	<i>The Lacuna</i>
John Grisham	<i>Ford County: Stories</i>
Linda Howard	<i>Ice</i>
Jeff Shaara	<i>No Less Than Victory</i>
Clive Cussler	<i>The Wrecker</i>
Vladimir Nabokov	<i>The Original of Laura</i>
Jennifer Chiaverini	<i>A Quilter's Holiday</i>
Thomas Kinkade	<i>A Wish for Christmas</i>
Edward Rutherford	<i>New York</i>
Katherine Hall Page	<i>The Body in the Sleigh</i>
Joseph Wambaugh	<i>Hollywood Moon</i>
Sue Henry	<i>The End of the Road</i>
Larry Niven	<i>Destroyer of Worlds</i>

### December

Sue Grafton	<i>U is for Undertoe</i>
Michael Crichton	<i>Pirate Latitudes</i>
J.M.Coetzee	<i>Summertime</i>
Laurell K. Hamilton	<i>Divine Misdemeanors</i>
James Patterson	<i>Witch and Wizard</i>
W.E.B. Griffin	<i>The Honor of Spies</i>
Sherrilyn Kenyon	<i>Born of Ice</i>
Dominick Dunne	<i>Too Much Money</i>
Stuart Woods	<i>Kisser</i>
Jayne Ann Krentz	<i>Fired Up</i>
Fern Michaels	<i>Deadly Deals</i>
Mary Balogh	<i>A Matter of Class</i>
Jasper Fforde	<i>Shades of Grey</i>
Monica Ferris	<i>Sew Far, So Good</i>

Keep up with new books and books in the news—  
click on "[Good Reads](http://www.hamdenlibrary.org)" at [www.hamdenlibrary.org](http://www.hamdenlibrary.org)

# CHILDREN'S CORNER



## Miller Library Weekly Storytimes

**Wonderful Ones:** Wednesdays & Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.  
(*Rhymes, finger games and stories. Parents actively participate.*)

**Time for Twos:** Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m.  
(*Age-appropriate stories, songs, and activities. Parents actively participate.*)

**Thrilling Three's & Fours:** Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.  
(*Stories and craft activity. Parents do not participate; they may stay in the room or visit another part of the library, but may not leave the building.*)

Registration is required for all storytimes. Call 230-3770

## Favorite Holiday Children's Books

(courtesy of Encarta)

*The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg  
*Hanukkah!* By Roni Schotter  
*The Night Before Christmas* by Clement Moore  
*Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* by Eric A. Kimmel  
*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens  
*Celebrating Kwanzaa* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith  
*How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* by Dr. Seuss  
*Eloise at Christmastime* by Kay Thompson

## Special Children's Programs (November/December 2009)

Mon, Nov 16 **Movement & Music (ages 0-5)** 10:30 am

Tues, Nov 17 **Science Snoopers: Turkey Time**  
(ages 5 and up) 4:15 pm

Wed, Nov 18 **Thanksgiving Craft (ages 4-10)** 4:15 pm

Tues, Nov 24 **KinderPrep (ages 4-5)** 10:30 am

Tues, Dec 8 **Exploring Rhythms (ages 3-5)** 11:30 am

Thurs, Dec 10 **Holiday Craft (ages 4-10)** 4:15 pm

Tues, Dec 15 **Science Snoopers: Winter Water**  
(ages 5 and up) 4:15 pm

Dec date, time TBA **Two Cat Band Holiday Music**

*Registration is required for all programs.*

Call 230-3770 for more information

