

HAMDEN LIBRARY NEWS

Hamden Public Library at 3 locations: Miller Memorial Central Library · 2901 Dixwell Avenue · 287-2680
 Brundage Community Branch · 91 Circular Avenue · 287-2675
 Whitneyville Branch · 125 Carleton Street · 287-2677



Job Seekers Aided by Library Resources

*By Bob Gualtieri,
Library Director*

As unemployment remains high, an increasing number of residents have found themselves back on the job market, many for the first time in decades. What they have encountered is a hiring landscape that is more competitive and more complicated than ever before, with classified ads giving way to online postings and paper resumes giving way to computer online filing.

Job hunters are turning to public libraries in their search process. Hamden Public Library has new public PCs available for both resume preparation, filing online job applications and job searching. One of the major job searching databases, **JobNow**, was used 63 times last fiscal year, and for the first 5 months of this year, the number rose to 242.

JobNow provides resume templates, live career coaching and expert resume assistance. Additional links provide Career Self Assessment tools to explore careers based upon interests and skills. The Job Resource Link lists both national and local resources with web site links to both the classified sections of Connecticut newspapers and regional job postings from the Connecticut Department of Labor including the Hamden CT Works Career Center, 37 Marne Street (203) 859-3200. These regional centers offer resume preparation assistance and job / career workshops. The Town of Hamden also offers job and career assistance through Sue Hutchinson at (203) 562-5129.

Check the Hamden Library public access catalog for a complete listing of resume preparations guides, interviewing techniques and career resources available in print.

Technology Upgrades:

**New Computers, Software,
and Downloadables!**

Patrons who use **library computers** to surf the Internet, do research, create documents and more will now find **15 new Dell PCs** at their disposal. These new desktop models which use the **Windows 7** operating system provide the added convenience of new keyboard features, easier access to USB ports, improved ergonomic design and additional software installed that allows for CD and DVD burning and other multimedia tasks. We appreciate the effort of the Town IT Department in providing us with new equipment along with funding approval by the Mayor and Legislative Council.

Meanwhile, library users who enjoy **downloadable audiobooks** should be aware that we have greatly expanded this service beyond those which we previously offered through the statewide iCONN program. The Library has contracted with Ingram Digital Services to provide many more titles for download. Hamden residents with a valid library card can sign up for this service through the library's website.

Finally, the library is pursuing a contract with Overdrive that will enable us to offer free **downloadable e-books** and other media formats to Hamden Public Library cardholders in the near future. The e-books would be compatible with a wide range of e-reading devices and apps and, like the downloadable audiobooks, would be accessible to Hamden residents from their home computers. The Hamden Legislative Council is scheduled to vote on this proposal at their January meeting. If the service is approved, we hope to have it available by the end of January. Further information will be posted in the library, on the library's website and in local newspapers (as well as in the next issue of *The Hamden Library News*).

**Hamden Libraries will be closed on
Monday, January 17
Monday, February 21**

Technology 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: POWER SEARCH

SUBJECT: Multiple Database Search

HOW TO FIND: At www.hamdenlibrary.org go to Research Help -> Databases -> scroll to "General Resources"

HOW TO USE: 'Power Search' gives users the ability to simultaneously search more than 40 databases covering a variety of academic and popular subjects. For best results, use the Dashboard on the left side of the page to select the databases from among those as diverse as 'Hospitality & Tourism' to 'Military Intelligence' that are likely to contain information relative to your search. Once you have made your selection from the list of offerings, you will find a search box at the top of the page where you can type your search terms. You can sort your results by relevance or by publication date.

HotFlashes!!!

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

January

Jack Higgins	<i>The Judas Gate</i>
John Lescroart	<i>Damage</i>
James Patterson	<i>Fang</i>
Debbie Macomber	<i>Family Affair</i>
Greg Bear	<i>Halo: Cryptum</i>
Greg Lawrence	<i>Jackie as Editor</i>
Robert Crais	<i>The Sentry</i>
Brad Meltzer	<i>The Inner Circle</i>
Kimberla L. Roby	<i>Love, Honor & Betray</i>
Susan Vreeland	<i>Clara and Mr. Tiffany</i>
T.Jefferson Parker	<i>The Border Lords</i>
Susan Eliz. Philips	<i>Call Me Irresistible</i>
Stuart Woods	<i>Strategic Moves</i>
Katie Fforde	<i>Love Letters</i>
William G. Tapply	<i>The Nomination</i>
Parnell Hall	<i>The KenKen Killings</i>
Steve Hockensmith	<i>World's Greatest Sleuth</i>
Douglas Brinkley	<i>Quiet World</i>
James Patterson	<i>Tick, Tock</i>

February

Donald Rumsfeld	<i>Known and Unknown</i>
J.D. Robb	<i>Treachery in Death</i>
James Patterson	<i>Angel</i>
Preston/Child	<i>Gideon's Sword</i>

February (con't)

Jennifer Chiaverini	<i>The Union Quilters</i>
Dana Stabenow	<i>Though Not Dead</i>
J.A. Jance	<i>Fatal Error</i>
M.C. Beaton	<i>Death of a Chimney Sweep</i>

March

Jean M. Auel	<i>The Land of Painted Caves</i>
Suzanne Brockman	<i>Breaking the Rules</i>
James Patterson	<i>Toys</i>
Clive Cussler	<i>The Jungle</i>
Jodi Picoult	<i>Sing You Home</i>
Maeve Binchy	<i>Minding Frankie</i>
Harlen Coben	<i>Live Wire</i>
Alex. McCall Smith	<i>The Saturday Big Tent</i>
	<i>Wedding Party</i>

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

Sign-up for *Library News* in your e-mail. Ask for a form at any public service desk or go to www.hamdenlibrary.org

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 Ave. (203)287-2675

Thurs, Jan 20, 4 pm: Highwood PACK program: **"I Have A Dream"** craft activity to celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday. *Ages 6-10.*

Thurs, Feb 17, 4 pm: Highwood PACK Program: **"Chinese New Year Craft"** Ages 6-10

Thurs Feb 24, 2 pm: **Rock on with Mr. Gym!** Fun and games with bean bags, juggling and more! *Ages 5-10.*

Thurs, Mar 17, 4 pm: Highwood PACK Prgm: **"Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!"** Learn about Ireland, do a special craft. *Ages 6-10.*

*All the above programs require advanced registration.
Call 287-2675.*

Drop-in Story times Mondays at 10:30 a.m:
January 3, 10, 24, 31 (no Jan 17)
February 7, 14, 28 (no Feb 21)
March 7, 14, 21, 28



Mad Science: Watt's Up?
a recent program at
Brundage Community Branch



Whitneyville Branch 125 Carleton St. (203)287-2677

Get Crafty w/Jan for preschoolers (Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.)

Jan. 6th--**Design Your Own Calendar for the new year**

Feb. 10th--**Decorate a Frame for Your Valentine**

Mar. 10th--**Create Your Own Blustery March Windchimes**

Thurs, Feb. 24th, 11 a.m.-- New Haven Symphony Orchestra:
"Creating Musical Readers" (*Preschool – Grade 3*)

*All the above programs require advanced registration.
Call 287-2677.*

Drop-in Story times Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m:
January 11, 18, 25 (no Jan 4)
February 1, 8, 15, 22
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

IN MEMORIAM: Jean Akin

By Ina Jaffe



Jean Akin, a long time resident of Hamden and a member of the Friends of the Hamden Library died October 10, 2010, five days after her eighty fifth birthday. She had been recognized for her volunteer work both at local and state levels.

When I met Jean more than a decade ago, she impressed me as a person who viewed her role in life as serving for the common good. She fulfilled that role admirably as a library volunteer and former director of the bookstore located in the Lower Level of the Miller Library. There is a photograph in the library archives of its founders: Anita Amendolo, Augusta Thomas, Cele Lerner, Ruth Berringer, Robert Dowd, Marie Carter, Lorna Wildgoose, Sally Haddad and Jean Akin. The bookstore formerly called the Second Hand Prose bookstore was renamed Jean Akin's Second Hand Prose Bookstore. The sign can be seen at the entrance to the bookstore.

At meetings of the Friends of the Library, Jean took pleasure in announcing the profits made from daily book sales, as well as organized large sales conducted on the main floor. The monies provided additional books, media material, library furniture and evening and summer programs, sponsored by the Friends.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Miller Library Weekly Storytimes

Wonderful Ones:

Wednesdays 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 Threes & 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**

Special Children's Programs

January-March 2011

Registration is required for all of the following:

Wed. Jan 12, 4:15 pm: **Science Snoopers: Arctic Adventures.** *Ages 5 & up.*

Thurs, Jan 19, 4:15 pm: **Winter Craft.** *Ages 4-10*

Thurs. Feb 10, 4:15 pm: **Valentine Craft.** *Ages 4-10*

Tues. Feb 16, 4:15 pm: **Science Snoopers: Me and My Shadow** *Ages 5 & up.*

Thurs, Feb 17 **Registration for Pre-K programs** starts at 10 a.m.

Fri. Feb 25, 10:30 am: **Jeepers Creepers w/ Riverside Reptiles.** *Ages 4 & up.*

Thurs. Mar 10, 4:15 pm: **Science Snoopers.** *Ages 5 & up.*

Tues. Mar 15, 4:15 pm: **St. Patrick's Craft,** *Ages 4-10*

Fri. Mar 25, 10:30 am: **Music with Margie,** *Ages 2-5*

Writing Contest Announced:

The Thornton Wilder Writing Competition is getting ready for its 2011 season. We are mailing information to thirty schools that have sent contestants in the past, and updating our website for all others. The contest officially begins on December 1, with entries due by February 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. The award ceremony will be held at Thornton Wilder Hall on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. There is a \$600 first prize for prose and poetry and a \$400 second prize for both, with readings of the winning entries and refreshments afterward.

The Writing Contest grew out of a community appreciation evening in 1982 for Thornton Wilder, a three time Pulitzer Prize winner who lived in Hamden with his sister Isabel for 30 years until his death in 1975. His best known work, "Our Town" is still played in major cities, and by high schools all over the world. The community was so responsive to the evening for Wilder, who had been their neighbor, bridge partner, and friend that the Friends of the Hamden Library decided to start a writing contest in his honor at Hamden High

School to keep his name before the public. Isabel Wilder graciously gave a donation for prize money for the occasion. Twenty-five years later we have a writing competition that is open to any high school student in Connecticut, with 191 entries last year from 24 high schools. We have awarded cash prizes to 84 students for their creative writing efforts.

If you know of high school students who might benefit from the competition, please encourage them to apply. If you enjoy hearing the creativity of our student population, please come to our awards ceremony on April 5. If you are looking for a good read, on the counter at the Thornton Wilder Corner in the Miller Library are two loose-leaf notebooks with ten years of prize-winning stories and poems for you to enjoy. The library website is : www.hamdenlibrary.org

~Bette Mettler, Chair Friends of the Hamden Public Library's Thornton Wilder Competition.