

ATHENAEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 8

September, 2002

The Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm Street, Westfield, MA 01085

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

The poets are coming! This fall there will be three poetry readings at the Athenaeum. First, on Friday, September 20 from 7-9 PM, the Westfield CDC sponsors Martin Espada, a winner of the American Book Award. The Brooklyn born poet, who now lives in Northampton, has been published in many national magazines including, Harpers, The Nation, and The New York Times Book Review. He has been praised for his heartfelt rendering of the lives of the downtrodden in society.

On Wednesday, October 9 from 7-9 PM, Margaret Szumowski will read from her book, I Want This World, which recently won the 2002 Peace Corps Prize for Poetry. She and her husband had many memorable experiences while in Africa with the Peace Corps, including being kidnapped by Idi Amin in Uganda. These and other experiences are recounted in this collection which has been lauded as “engaging, imaginative and bold”.

The following day, Thursday October 10 at 6:30 PM, David Lucander brings his youthful, energy-filled brand of poetry to the Athenaeum. Lucander, who often appears at Jester's Café, is known for his

internet “zine” Message from the Homeland.

Donald G. Buckley, Jr.
Acting Director

HELP SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF THE ATHENAEUM – JOIN US ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 FROM 5:30-8:30 PM IN THE LIBRARY PARKING LOT FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL BEERFEST!! Tickets are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased at the library or at Phipps Liquor stores.

The next **Book Discussion** will be Thursday, October 3 at 1:00 PM in the Elizabeth Reed Room. The book to be discussed is Alice Sebold's The Lovely Bones. Reserve your copy now!

Adaptive Technology. Through a state LSTA grant, the Westfield Athenaeum now has a computer station with adaptive technology that allows people with low or no vision access to the internet and any other reading material. *Magic* is a software program that enlarges the print on the computer to make a text easy to read. The *Jaws* program reads aloud the computer screen, what is typed on the computer, and internet sites. For people with ADD, *Kurzweil 3000* allows the reader to scan in a text, set the pace, tone and language of reading voice, and highlights the words as they are read.

This program also has a built in dictionary and permits notes to be appended to the text. The *Inspiration* and *Kidspiration* software help young and old organize ideas by using visual prompts and icons. Please come to our **Open House on Thursday, September 26 from 6:30-7:30 PM** for more information.

We will also have two classes to learn about the American Sign Language.
Adults – **Wednesday, September 25**
From **6:00-7:30 PM**
Children – **Saturday, September 28**
From **10-11:30 AM**

More about *Inspiration* and *Kidspiration* software These New programs will help adults and children synthesize wandering ideas into the more formal school paper. This software uses a variety of pictures, icons, and word bubbles to encourage brainstorming or free- thinking and then organizes them into an outline. Whether writing a paragraph about a summer vacation or book report, this program is fun to use and definitely takes some of the pain out of writing a paragraph or essay. Please see the reference librarian in the adult or children's library for assistance in using this software.

Classics Anyone? Do you have a desire to be well read? Would you like to work through Dickens, Tolstoy, Bronte, Chopin, and others in a relaxed setting with inquisitive people? If this is your cup of tea, please talk to Kate Deviny at the reference desk. If interested, stop in and see Kate at the reference desk or call 562-0716.

New copies of classics ... Speaking of classic books, the library has recently re-purchased some well-known favorites: Plath's The Bell Jar, Waugh's A Handful of Dust, Collins The Moonstone (the first mystery novel), Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, Cather's O Pioneers!, Kafka's Metamorphosis, Bronte's Villette, Faulkner's Sanctuary, Sinclair's The Jungle, Trollope's The Way We Live Now, and Austen's Pride and Prejudice to name a few.

Interlibrary Loan. If the library does not carry a book, CD, video or other item you want, the Athenaeum offers an interlibrary loan service that searches out and requests the item from another library. Requests may be made at the Circulation Desk or by calling 568-7833.

September Jasper Rand Art Exhibit. The artwork of Laurie Hiers is featured in the Jasper Rand for the month of September. Hiers, a Granville resident, has been painting since 2000 and specializes in watercolors of pets and unique houses. Her work can be viewed during regular library hours.

Homework Help. The Boys & Girls Library has books to assist you in answering those homework questions. Some examples are: Everything You Need to Know About Science Homework, Homework Help on the Internet, and The Ultimate On-line Homework Helper. In the adult library we have Hassle-free Homework and How to Help Your Child with Homework. **F.Y.I.** The middle school offers a homework hotline to tell you what your child's assignments are and an after school help class.

Two good homework help sites are:
http://www.startribune.com/homework_help and
<http://school.discovery.com.students/index.html>.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS AT THE BOYS & GIRLS LIBRARY:

September 4: Young Adult Advisory Board Meeting for Grades 6 & up will meet from 4-5 PM. Please join us if you are interested in planning library events with other young adults. The Board meets every other Wednesday at 4 PM.

Thursday, September 4: Sign-Up Begins for Parent/Child Art, Mother Goose Time & Mad Science Classes. Parent/Child Art Classes are offered as a series on Mondays from 4-5 PM. Sign-up for one of the following series: September, October or November. Single classes on Saturdays for Grades 2 & 3, 4 & 5 and 6 & 7 are also available. Mother Goose Time is designed for children age 2 & under. Children and parents will join Meghan in simple songs, fingerplays, and stories. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED; ALL CHILDREN ATTENDING MUST BE NO OLDER THAN 2 YEARS. It is recommended that there is an adult attending for each child attending. Three series are available: September, October & November.

Mad Science: Two more programs are being offered – Saturday, September 14 from 10-11 AM and Saturday, September 28 from 10-11 AM. For Grades K-2. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 7: Parent/Child Saturday Art: Cubist Collage from 10-11 AM. For Grades 4 & 5.

Mondays, September 9, 16, 23 & 30 - Parent/Child Art Series for Grades K, 1 & 2 from 4-5 PM. Class is limited to children and 5 adults. Both the parent and the child will make a project each week.

Tuesdays, September 10, 17 & 24 – Mother Goose Time.

Thursdays, September 12 & 26 - Open Story Time for ages 2-5 years. Children ages 2-5 and a caregiver are invited to attend this half hour story time. No advance registration required.

Saturdays, September 14 & 28 – Mad Science for Grades K-2. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, September 21 – Parent/Child Saturday Art Class at 10:00 AM for Grades 2 & 3. Advance registration is required.



LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday	8:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday & Saturday	8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

LIBRARY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Adult Library	568-7833
Reference Dept.	562-0716
Boys & Girls	562-6158

CONTRIBUTING TO THIS NEWSLETTER:

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