



Reference and Adult Services Division

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**SPRING 2009**



**Presidential Musings**

As I write this, things are precarious in the world around us and in the library world. I couldn't help but think of Dickens, especially since his work is being featured on PBS' Masterpiece Classic series. Of course, what came to mind is the famous line from "A Tale of Two Cities," "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only".

The bad news is that as of this writing, Albany has proposed to impose disproportionate cuts for libraries in the state. We all must contact our legislators to ask that cuts to library funding be reconsidered ([www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org)).

That said, there is much to celebrate about RASD. In addition to the royal blue RASD tote bags that each 2009 member has received, the committees have planned many exciting events for the spring. Our fellow librarians have collaborated and brainstormed and found ways to enrich our knowledge in a

variety of areas (careers, electronic resources, health, L.I.history, media, multicultural issues, and the art of readers advisory).

The Long Island Reads Committee has chosen a book by Pulitzer Prize winning author and presidential historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, "Wait Till Next Year" for this year's One Island-One Book program. Ms Goodwin will discuss her book at the Brentwood Library on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Check the web site, ([www.longislandreads.org](http://www.longislandreads.org)).

Look for our four programs at the Long Island Library Conference, May 7, 2009. The OARS program, "Never Stop Learning," the L. I. History Committee's "Long Island Whalemens in Song & Poetry," MOSAIC's "Getting to Know You," and NCLA & SCLA's RASD Division's "Seeds of Information: Horticultural Resources for Libraries."

There is still more...The Long Island History Committee is having their annual tour on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum. The docent-led tour of the manor house will be followed by high tea.

You will find all of our upcoming programs listed on the SCLA calendar of events at ([scla.net](http://scla.net)). Also on the web page are more than thirty annotated booklists created by the Reader's Advisory Committee.

I hope to see many current RASD members at many of these events, and to meet

new librarians who choose to take the plunge and join a committee in 2009.

I guess it is apropos to end with another Dickens' quote, this one from "David Copperfield," "Ride on over all obstacles, and win the race!"

*Jo-Ann Carhart*

#### **LONG ISLAND HISTORY COMMITTEE**

Join the Long Island History Committee of RASD on Thursday, May 21st for a tour of the Cutting Manor House located at Bayard Cutting Arboretum. The tour of the house will take place at 10 am and high tea in the library will follow at 12 noon. The cost of the tour and tea is \$37.50. The Tea consists of scones, finger sandwiches, desserts and a large selection of brewed tea to choose from. There is an additional charge of \$6.00 for parking. Bayard Cutting Arboretum located at: 440 Montauk Highway, Great River, NY 11739. Anyone interested in attending should contact Mary Kofler [mkofler@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:mkofler@suffolk.lib.ny.us) or Inez Foster [ifoster@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:ifoster@suffolk.lib.ny.us) for more information or visit our website <http://lihistoryrasd.wordpress.com>.

The next meeting for the Long Island History Committee of RASD is on Thursday, March 5th at 9am at Suffolk Cooperative Library System. There will be a Long Island Forum meeting following our meeting.

#### **MOSAIC**

TAKE NOTE!!! The Multicultural and Multilingual Services Committee has a new name MOSAIC. In case you are wondering MOSAIC stands for Multicultural Outreach Services and Information Committee. This committee works extremely hard to promote cultural awareness and assist with outreach to diverse communities.

With this in mind, Loida Santos from BiasHELP of Long Island will speak at the Long Island Library Conference. Her presentation "Getting to Know You" will discuss stereotyping as it pertains to customer service in public libraries. Hope to see you there!!!

*Mary Kelly  
Station Branch Manager/MOSAIC Chairperson  
Huntington Public Library*

#### **LONG ISLAND READS**



Author Doris Kearns Goodwin, the author of the LI Reads 2009 selection, "Wait Till Next Year-A Memoir", will be speaking at our annual event on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m., at Brentwood Public Library. Tickets will be available through Nassau and Suffolk Systems starting April 1. Details, numbers and any restrictions will be advised in a flyer sent to all Nassau and Suffolk libraries.

Cultural Programming Guide and Readers Guide 2009 for this book are available at [www.longislandreads.org](http://www.longislandreads.org) under 'For Library Staff'.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me or Maureen Garvey (Nassau) at [maureengarvey@merricklibrary.org](mailto:maureengarvey@merricklibrary.org) Deborah Cunningham [dcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:dcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us)

#### **READER'S ADVISORY**

*Learn how to match readers with books they'll love* is a phrase commonly used to promote reader's services. The last time the Reader's Advisory Committee met, we took an informal poll to share how each of us chooses the books to read for our meetings and personal

preferences. As you would expect, the answers varied widely. Some get recommendations from friends or colleagues. Some rely on reviews in journals, newspapers, the Internet and television. At times we all swear by serendipity. There are those who are voracious readers and never have enough time to try all of the books they would like to. It's a revelation to hear how someone struggled through a book, betrayed by a rave review in the media only to find that the book was never going to fulfill the promise. We know those who read carefully to insure that they don't miss anything. Others will skim through pages of description. Others read the ending before they begin. The way people read, what they read, and why they read is as diverse as the readers themselves and these are some of the reasons *reader's advisory* is challenging. Join your colleagues and share your reading tips. Our meetings are enlightening, informative and enjoyable.

<http://rasdreadersadvisory.pbwiki.com/>

For more information contact Grace O'Connor at the West Islip Public Library (goconnor@suffolk.lib.ny.us),

## **GREAT READS BY GREAT READERS ADVISORS**

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer

Nine-year-old Oskar Schell and his father used to play "reconnaissance" games where they would follow clues and recover items around New York City. Then his father is killed in the second tower in the September 11th attacks. Finding a mysterious key in an envelope marked "Black" in a vase in his father's closet, Oskar thinks it's another game and embarks on a quest that is not merely an adventure, but also a journey into his own feelings of loss and guilt.

A challenging but very rewarding read, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is a very effective and moving tale of a boy's coming of age.

Catherine Nashak, Deer Park Public Library

*Heart in the Right Place* by Carolyn Jourdan

This is the story of Carolyn Jourdan, the daughter of a doctor in the very rural Eastern Tennessee mountains. She has a high powered career as a Senate staffer in Washington DC but

suddenly must return home after her mother has a heart attack. Carolyn's father is the only doctor and for 40 years, he and his wife have managed medical care for the people in the area. Her mother is a rural health Nurse and ran the front desk and assisted her husband wherever she was need. Carolyn has no medical training, but takes over the front desk part while her Mother recuperates.

This is the story of how Carolyn decided to stay in Eastern Tennessee and help her parents continue their medical service to this rural community. Some of her stories are funny, some are very tragic. This story illustrates the dedication of people who devote their entire lives to helping other people. Carolyn went into public service to be of some use in the world, and realizes that she is more valuable helping this rural community than she is in Washington DC.

Elizabeth Reade, Mastic Moriches Shirley Community Library

*Jumbo: This Being the True Story of the Greatest Elephant in the World* by Paul Chambers

Have you ever flown on a jumbo jet? Asked for an order of jumbo fries? We use the word "jumbo" to describe the sheer enormity of an object. But most are probably not aware that the term entered our vocabulary as a result of the popularity of an African elephant born in the mid-19th century. Paul Chambers has written a book that traces the story of Jumbo—the greatest elephant in the world.

Snatched from the wilds of Africa, Jumbo was taken to Paris and then London before he was bought by P.T. Barnum and transported to New York City. In all of his travels, throngs of people would greet Jumbo upon his arrival, and then gather again to see him off upon his departure. Chambers' account of Jumbo's life provides a meticulous snapshot of a social phenomenon. Read about the handler who became a recluse while caring for Jumbo for over thirty years; learn about the competitive and cruel practices that zoological societies used to procure exotic animals; and marvel at the enormous fame that Jumbo commanded up to the time of his tragic death.

Entertaining and well-researched, *Jumbo* reads like a novel. It will appeal to animal lovers as well as those who would like to take a glimpse into life in the late 19th century. The book's images will linger in one's heart and mind long after the completion of the final chapter.

*Deborah Formosa, Northport-East Northport Public Library*

*That Summer in Sicily* by Marlena de Blasi

A tale of life and love in the mountains of Sicily. While trying to do research on the interior regions of Sicily, de Blasi literally stumbles upon the Villa Donnafugata. The story of this amazing place from another time and how it emerged out of the past is told to de Blasi by the villa's mistress, Tosca. When she was nine or ten years old, her widowed father had sent her to live at the villa with Leo, a Sicilian prince, in exchange for a stallion that he wanted desperately.

In the years following World War II, the prince and his ward fall in love and together bring education, health care and a new vitality to the village. Ultimately, Leo is kidnapped and his disappearance is blamed on the local Mafiosi. After losing Leo, Tosca goes to live for a time in Palermo. What happens at Donnafugata and to the villagers upon her return - how they care for one another and go about their tasks is the heart of this book.

*Grace O'Connor, West Islip Public Library*

*The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde

Thursday Next is a Literary Detective. It's her job to investigate crimes of all kinds involving the book world but when characters from classic literature start to go missing, literary detection takes on a whole new meaning.

*The Eyre Affair* is great for readers looking for something a little different. Yes, it takes a bit of imagination to get into it, but the concept is so unique that it's definitely worth it. It has a little something for everyone and once you see London from Thursday's point of view, you'll be clamoring to become a Literary Detective yourself.

*The Eyre Affair* is part mystery, part science-fiction, part fantasy and a whole lot of fun. Everything is a little off in Thursday's world

where the present time is actually 1985, the Crimean War is still going on, characters have names like Jack Schitt and Braxton Hicks, you can re-engineer a dodo bird to be your family pet, cheese is a black-market item and everything is sponsored by the Toast Marketing Board.

*Azurée Agnello – West Babylon Public Library*

*The Good Guy* by Dean Koontz

Timothy Carrier, a quiet stone mason having a beer in a California bar, meets a stranger who mistakes him for a hit man. The stranger slips him a manila envelope containing \$10,000 in cash and a photo of the intended victim, then leaves. A moment later, the real killer, arrives and assumes Tim is his client. Tim manages to distract the killer from immediately carrying out the hit by saying he's changed his mind and will return the money he just received. Tim feels that by doing this, he will have time to warn the victim. But can he save her life and his?

*Rosalie Toja, Brentwood Public Library*

*The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* by Lucette Lagnado

Senior special writer and investigative reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, Lagnado writes of her "family's exodus from Old Cairo to the New World." After the fall of King Farouk and the purging of all foreign influences, the Lagnados are forced to make their escape. With their belongings packed into twenty-six suitcases, they depart for any country that will take them. The poverty and hardships they encounter in their journey from Cairo to Paris to New York are set against the beauty and comfort of the lives they left behind. A very personal story of one family's fortunes and misfortunes and a heartbreaking account of lives forever changed.

*Grace O'Connor, West Islip Public Library*

*Promised Land: Thirteen Books That Changed America* by Jay Parini

Inspired by a lecture that identified seminal British titles, Jay Parini, a poet, novelist, biographer and college professor, determined to look for the books that have defined America's national identity. The result is a fascinating selection covering topics about our national

experience: exploration, independence, immigration, assimilation, government, religious freedom, race and ethnicity. The chosen books are *Of Plymouth Plantation*, *The Federalist Papers*, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, *Walden*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Souls of Black Folk*, *The Promised Land*, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, *On The Road*, *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care* and *The Feminine Mystique*. For each title Parini gives an introduction and some background about the book and its author, a summary, and a discussion about the reasons for selection.

You'll learn a lot of history here! You can turn to the Appendix and find an annotated list of one hundred other special books that might have been included. This would be an excellent choice for an issues oriented, or history, reading group, and is highly recommended. Read-alikes include *12 Books That Changed the World* by Melvyn Bragg, and Alfred Kazin's *A Writer's America. Landscape in Literature*.

Suzanne McGuire, Commack Public Library

#### *Mortal Danger* by Ann Rule

The author of many true crime novels, Ann Rule's *Mortal Danger* is the 13th volume in her Crime Files series. This book covers 5 true crime cases involving possessive, controlling men and the women that they terrorized. The author returns to old cases that have finally come to their conclusion, and relates a few recent cases as well.

In *Mortal Danger*, Kate Jewell endures a 10-year relationship with John Williams before fleeing naked and barefoot, through the woods in order to escape being strangled and stabbed to death by him. Unfortunately, years later Turi Bentley succumbed to John's jealous rages when he shot her to death.

*Written in Blood* details the murders of Brian and Bev Mauck, who were murdered by a neighbor supposedly for calling him a name. Daniel Tavares confessed to the crimes. It was later found that he had killed his mother years earlier.

*If I can't have you* is a 23-page report on the stabbing death of Amelia Jager. Heinz, her husband of three months refused her any friends

or social interaction. When she left him, he followed and killed her, also severely injuring her sister.

Julie Costello was not the first victim of Clarence Williams. Thirty years earlier, Sara Beth Lindquist had been murdered by a complete stranger. *Thirty Years Later* uncovers the DNA evidence that finally solved her case.

Lori Ludlow, Babylon Public Library

#### *The Girl with No Shadow* by Joanne Harris

*The Girl with No Shadow* is a sequel to *Chocolat*. More than four years has passed since Vianne Rocher moved with the wind. She has given up witchcraft and changed her name to Yanne Charbonneau when she had a close encounter with authorities after the birth of her infant, Rosette. Yanne's daughter Anouk is now known as Annie and Yanne and her daughters live in Montmartre. The charming but ruthless Zozie comes into their lives and all of the ordinariness that Yanne worked to achieve is in danger of disappearing. Yanne, Zozie, and Annie narrate this tale which takes place in the time between Halloween and Christmas day.

Michelle Epstein, East Northport Library

#### *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

Enzo, a golden lab mix, is our narrator in this unique blend of race car expose and the observations of our canine companions. Enzo's family begins with Denny Swift a gifted racecar driver who struggles to make it big on the circuit; Denny marries Eve, and then they have Zoe. Eve has her reservations about Enzo but Enzo knows he would never hurt the newest member of the Swift family. Enzo demonstrates how he attempts to communicate with his human family sometimes with comical results, sometimes shocking. One example of the latter is when Zoe refuses to eat her chicken nuggets after specifically asking for them and Eve gets furious when Denny offers to make Zoe a hot dog. Eve in her fury ends up cutting herself quite badly and while the family is trying to patch Eve up, Enzo trots into the kitchen for a snack. There is no food in his bowl and sees the uneaten nugget on the floor. He sniffs it and realizes it has gone bad. He is frustrated that he can't explain this to Zoe's parents. We learn that Eve is seriously ill and Enzo is the first to sense this

and is again frustrated that he cannot communicate. Enzo also bemoans the lack of thumbs and impresses us, the reader, of the value of that digit. Enzo expects to come back as a man after he dies because "he is ready." We the reader agree that he is indeed ready. It was a very unique and delightful read.

*Peggy McCarthy, Smithtown/Commack Branch Library*

*Chang and Eng* by Darin Strauss

Chang and Eng, the famous Siamese twins, were born in 1811 and lived a full life until 1874. This is a fictionalized account of their lives told through the eyes of Eng. Focusing on the challenges in their day to day lives; the reader is also exposed to the challenges of other unions including their marriages and the state of the federal union. This poignant yet at times humorous tale will be enjoyed by readers of historical fiction and fictionalized biographies.

*Karen Jaffe, Comsewogue Public Library*

*Jolie Blon's Bounce* by James Lee Burke

Dave Robicheaux, a New Iberia, Louisiana police detective, is James Lee Burke's vehicle in his series of novels that taken together stand as a documentation of southern culture. Robicheaux, a dangerously, perhaps fatally, flawed man whose struggle against the evils of the world around him are eclipsed only by his battle with his own dark side.

*Jolie Blon's Bounce* begins with a brief but important foray into Robicheaux's past before bringing the reader abruptly into the present - a present consisting of the senseless, brutal murder of a popular teenager. The immediate suspect, Tee Bobby Hulin is a drug-addicted musician. Robicheaux has doubts about Hulin's involvement in the murder. However, another killing soon follows and Hulin again appears to be the likely culprit. The second victim is a drug addicted prostitute who happens to be the daughter of a local Mafioso, a man more than prepared to hand out his own rough vengeance. Standing like a shadow in the background is the malevolent Legion Guidry, an individual of mystery and such casual cruelty that he has acquired a terrifying reputation for decades among the black residents of the area. Robicheaux's sudden, brutal encounter with

Guidry results in Robicheaux's problems with substance addiction. As Robicheaux struggles to overcome his addiction, he finds redemption in two unlikely sources; his old friend Clete Purcel, and a homeless drifter who claims to have been Robicheaux's rescuer in a fire during the Vietnam war. The conclusion to *Jolie Blon's Bounce* is at once inevitable and surprising.

*Rhea Pollock, Brentwood Public Library*

*Consumption* by Kevin Patterson

*Consumption* takes place in the Canadian Arctic in the late 1960s and 70s. The title of this book, *Consumption*, has both literal and metaphorical meaning. Literal as in tuberculosis, but also metaphorical in the sense of what the material goods and spiritual emptiness of the modern world is doing to the traditional Inuit way of life.

Victoria is ten years old in 1962 when she is sent from her village on the shores of Hudson Bay to recover from tuberculosis. Six years later she returns to her community to find it unrecognizable. Her people, formerly nomadic hunters, have now traded their lifestyle for a settlement existence. Her town is now populated by non-natives with their mining interests, western medicine, and alien religious ideas. She finds that it is now impossible to tolerate the food and living conditions that she grew up with, having been exposed to modern ways while she was in the sanitarium.

She marries a white man who accepts a job offer from a mining concern that believes a fortune in diamonds is in the area. Victoria's husband, John Robertson, eventually betrays the Inuit in his role as manager of the mine. Victoria and her family are deeply affected by the force tearing apart their society.

*Consumption* is a powerful novel that will make you think about the real meaning of progress and civilization, and a fascinating study of a culture most readers know little about.

Kevin Patterson has extensive personal experience as a kablunuak, a white person living among the Inuit. He works as an emergency and general medicine doctor on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia, Canada. He put himself through medical school by serving in the Canadian Army.

*Bruce Silverstein, Patchogue-Medford Library*

## **Last Print Issue of *Ramblings***

Due to New York State budget cuts, SCLS has had to downsize many of their services, one of which is the Print Shop. Accordingly, the RASD Board has decided that it would be more “green” and cost effective to no longer print paper copies of *Ramblings*. In the future, we with *Ramblings* as an attachment. If you are a member and have a new e-mail address, or did not include one when you registered, please send your e-mail address to Rona Dressler at [rdressle@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:rdressle@suffolk.lib.ny.us).

## **HEALTH CONCERNS**

Health Concerns has chosen a topic for this year. Our topic is “Anxiety”. We will produce a bibliography and a workshop in October. Our website is <http://healthconcerns.pbwiki.com/>. You can view last year’s annotated bibliography on Pain Management. For further information, please email [rdressle@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:rdressle@suffolk.lib.ny.us).

## **OARS**

The OARS Committee would like to invite everyone to attend our program at the Long Island Library Conference titled, “Never Stop Learning”. Our speakers, Philip Metzger from the Center for Creative Retirement and someone from the Institute for Learning in Retirement will explore the world of learning in retirement. We are in the Plaza at 8:00am.

*Cindy Miller, Central Islip*

## **ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

I have taken over as chair of the Electronic Resources Committee. We will be having an organizational/brainstorming meeting Monday, April 20 at 10am at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Let's discuss where we would like to

take this committee, rewrite our mission statement, and talk about possible future events. There are plenty of electronic resources out there beyond paid databases, which remain an important resource, but not the only one. Other possible topics of interest include best practices in social networking in libraries (facebook, twitter, flickr, etc), Web design using new CMS (Content Management Systems) like Drupal or Wordpress, publishing under the Creative Commons...(insert your ideas here). Please consider joining! Let's make this committee useful and relevant and stimulating for all reference librarians.

*Lauren Gilbert, Cold Spring Harbor*

## **RASD Program at LILC**

Both Nassau & Suffolk RASDs will be jointly sponsoring the program, *Seeds of Information: Horticultural Resources for Libraries* at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Long Island Library Conference. The presentation is scheduled for Session II- 11:30am to 12:35pm in Hampton Gardens at the Crest Hollow Country Club.

The speakers will be Dorrie Rosen, Plant Information Specialist at the LuEsther T. Mertz Library -The New York Botanical Garden and Caroline T. Kiang, Community and Environmental Horticulture Specialist at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. Dorrie and Caroline will discuss the services and programs offered by their organizations and sources for the bio-friendly way to care for lawns, flower and vegetable gardens.

Come join us and enjoy learning about the horticultural information available for gardeners and plant-lovers.

*Rose Marut, Patchogue-Medford Library*

This newsletter is also available in large type. Please notify the newsletter editor at [rdressle@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:rdressle@suffolk.lib.ny.us) for a copy

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