

HYDE PARK FREE LIBRARY

SERVING HYDE PARK SINCE 1927



A HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

November 24th, 2017

Dear Hyde Park Library Patron,

We say it a lot--especially around this time of year--but we at the Hyde Park Library have much to be grateful for. We are particularly thankful for the support and good will our patrons have shown us throughout the year.

Whether it's casting a ballot in our annual board election and budget vote, making private donations, supporting our book sales and/or quilt raffles, our community continues to demonstrate their support in a variety of ways.

The level of voluntary support the community has shown us has always been impressive and has gone a long way toward our goal of keeping our tax levy as low as possible.

At year's end we have traditionally run our annual appeal before closing our ledgers for the year. If making a contribution to this appeal at whatever level might be comfortable for you, please consider reviewing the information provided at the bottom of this newsletter--and perhaps printing out the donation form provided there to accompany your gift.

If giving of your time and talents is an option for you, you might consider joining our volunteer Friends of the Hyde Park Library. This dedicated group of volunteers has been a library mainstay for well over a decade now and have run a wide variety of programs and activities, as well as doing a good deal of fundraising.

The Friends are always in search of new members, you can find out more about the group by visiting their homepage at <http://hydeparkfreelibrary.org/2014/05/01/the-friends-of-the-hpfl/> or better yet, stop by and say hello at their next scheduled meeting (December 12 at 4:30 pm in the HPFL Annex). In fact, that's a great day to drop by since we'll also be hosting an open house in the Annex on the same day. There'll be cake--and cookies, coffee and punch. But most importantly, you'll get to make the acquaintance of a truly great group of volunteers.

AUTHOR VISIT: PAUL BESTON *The Boxing Kings*

On Thursday, November 30th at 7:00 pm, we'll be closing out the month with very special event--an author visit and book signing event featuring acclaimed, regional author Paul Beston whose new book *The Boxing Kings: When American Heavyweights Ruled the Ring* has been garnering great reviews and considerable attention from the reading public.

The American Spectator writes: "In *The Boxing Kings*, Paul Beston, managing editor of *City Journal*, gives a thorough and readable tour d'horizon of the heavyweight championship from John L. Sullivan in the late 19th century...though the sad end of Iron Mike Tyson's bizarre career, which featured a meteoric rise followed by near free-fall.... Boxing is clearly a lifetime love of Beston's. But in *Kings* he doesn't attempt to hide the dark underside of the sport, which includes mob influence, thrown fights for the benefit of gamblers, larcenous promoters and managers who cheated fighters of what they earned in the ring... But for all the

brutality and corruption of boxing, Beston is able to see and share with readers the thrills and beauty of the sweet science."

A must for sports fans, but also a rich and fascinating cultural history of an era which is largely gone, but certainly not forgotten. We look forward to Mr. Beston's presentation.

Author Visit & Book Signing with:

Paul Beston

THE BOXING KINGS WHEN AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHTS RULED THE RING
PAUL BESTON

"The Boxing Kings" is a book to read while we wait for the next Great American Hope in the distinguished line of Sullivan, Johnson, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano, Ali, and Tyson. Here is how the heavyweight division once was in all its red, white, and blue splendor.

— Randy Roberts, award-winning author of books on Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, and Muhammad Ali

**Thursday, Nov., 30th
at 7pm in Annex**

Hyde Park Library Annex ♦ 4 Main St., Hyde Park, NY 12538 ♦ 845.229.7791

Music At the Annex...And More

In our last newsletter we noted the pending release of our own Gregory Callahan's CD Long Overdue (produced and arranged by Hyde Park's own Eric Garrison). The album is being shipped this week and will on sale in December. The CD features songs by Bob Dylan, Lou Reed, Tracy Nelson, Burt Bacharach, John Prine and such regional songwriters as Don Lowe, Bob Fischer and Eric Garrison himself.

Our next Open Mic will take place on Sunday, November 26th at 2:00 p.m. Yes, we know it's Thanksgiving Weekend...and we know that many people may just be hitting the road back home around then, but we've found, in previous years, that there are actually a lot of musicians and music lovers out there who stayed local and may just be getting a little restless after days of turkey, football and online shopping and are ready to emerge from their tryptophan-induced stupor and work off a few calories and groove to some really good music at the Hyde Park Library Annex.

Sign-up is at 1:30 p.m. Open mic performances begin at 2:00. And our special featured act, the musically gifted and extremely witty Whitman and Pantell will take the stage at 3:30 pm.

As their website notes, "Whitman and Pantell have been dazzling audiences with their highly original, warm and powerful songs since 1995 with their lyrically rich and surprising melodies. They have arrived at a sound uniquely their own that engages listeners song after song. Their repertoire takes the audience through a full range of emotions, not the least of which is laughter."

Celebrating the Hyde Park Library's 90th Anniversary

♪ *Open Mic* ♪

With
Featured
Act:

Sunday,
Nov. 26th
2 pm



Whitman & Pantell

Hyde Park Library Annex • 4 Main St., Hyde Park, NY 12538 • 845-229-7791

And please note that in December, our open mic (normally scheduled for the fourth Sunday of the month) will be coming a little bit earlier in order not to conflict with Christmas Eve celebrations. So our special holiday open mic--with featured act Jim Barbaro--will take place on Sunday, December 17th. No change in the hour, however, sign-up will be at 1:30 pm. and performances will begin at 2:00.

Book Club News

Admittedly, we're a bit biased, but we think we run a pretty mean book club, and the fact that we have over 25 active members would suggest that there may be some truth to that assertion. But you know, there's always room for a few more. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to read a bit more, then joining a book club can give you just the right incentive to do so.

But do you want someone else telling you what to read? Well, one of the great things about our club is that we decide what we'll be reading the democratic way and hold a vote every November for the upcoming year. Suggestions for our ballot are made throughout the year and as the year winds down, we compile a roster of titles and an information packet pertaining to those selections, so that our members can decide what they would (and would not) like to tackle for the next year.

It works pretty well, and a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction titles are included every year. And we try to achieve a balance between current popular titles and some literary (although mostly 20th century) classics. Some of the authors included on next year's ballot include such contemporary writers as: Ann Patchett; Francine Prose; Colson Whitehead; and Julian Barnes--but also such past masters as: Edith Wharton; Sinclair Lewis; William Faulkner and Kate Chopin.

One of the other nice things about the group is that there is an afternoon session (usually the third Friday of the month at noon) and an evening one as well (usually the third Monday at 6:30 pm). So it accommodates almost everyone's schedule. And if you miss one, well, you can always

come to the other. Hey, if you're really dedicated, you could even attend both. (It's been known to happen.)

The best compliment we've received about our group (and it's stated fairly often) is when a member says, "You know, I never would have picked up that book on my own, but I'm so glad to have read it." A little horizon-broadening is always good. Why not resolve to check out our library's book club in the new year. And consider picking up a ballot at our circulation desk today?

More Library News: Movies, Writers' Group, Great Decisions Discussion Group

In December, we'll be running a series of holiday-related films, some of which are classics and others, well, just a tad off the beaten sleigh ride. We'll be offering screenings at various times (not just our traditional Friday evening shows). The first screening will be 2005's comedy-drama *The Family Stone* with Diane Keaton, Sarah Jessica Parker and Dermot Mulroney. Roger Ebert wrote "is silly at times, leaning toward the screwball tradition of everyone racing around the house at the same time in a panic fueled by serial misunderstandings [but] there is also a thoughtful side, involving the long and loving marriage of Sybil [Keaton] and Kelly [Craig T. Nelson]." The film will be shown on Saturday, December 2nd at 3:00 p.m. in the Library Annex.

We'll be screening the holiday classic 1992 "Holiday Inn," featuring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. Many people don't realize that the song "White Christmas" debuted in this film--a full decade earlier than it re-appeared in the actual film *White Christmas*. Over time both films have become true great American classics of the cinema. But there is something particularly special about the pairing of Astaire and Crosby.

Ten years later, with bigger budgets and Technicolor available, *White Christmas* did make its debut and has also become a beloved American classic. Crosby returns in the lead role--and this time out, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen. Join us for a screening of this truly wonderful Michael Curtiz film on Friday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. On the following day (Sat., Dec. 16th), we'll screen another more contemporary film, the 2003 comedy-drama *Love Actually*, starring Liam Neeson, Hugh Grant, and Laura Linney. The film was directed by Richard Curtis (no relation to Michael Curtiz).

Note: We do try to have a brief discussion on our film selection--always brief and to the point (or at least, we try), but it is often helpful to learn a bit about the film's history, cast and directors. Just a little value-add service, we provide. Now that Robert Osborne is no longer with us, someone has to fill in the gaps. :)

And speaking of other adult-level activities, we are still actively seeking new members for our writers' group. As mentioned in earlier newsletters, we have traditionally focused on shorter prose and poetry, but there is always room for authors of longer works (fiction or non-) to present individual chapters (or even shorter sections) of a work on a given evening. We typically meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. College and high school age writers are also welcome. Our next meeting is November 28th at 6:30 p.m. And we will have at least one meeting in December (on the 12th).

Our Great Discussions group will not meet in December, but we will be starting a new series of discussions on international and national concerns in the new year. That group meets the second Monday of each month.

For information on any and all of these groups, call Greg at 229-7791 ext.205.

Annual Appeal 2017

As we have done in previous years, we are including a Year-end Fundraising Appeal form in this newsletter. In this time of limited government support and mandated tax caps, the voluntary contributions of library patrons are especially welcome. Many library supporters have already contributed to fundraisers designated to sponsor specialized programming or to help us meet the costs of book delivery.

We're very grateful for that support and definitely want to thank all those who contributed to our recent campaign for support of the delivery services that help make the collections of the entire Mid-Hudson Library System membership available to us all.

Our Year End Appeal is an opportunity for all patrons and supporters of the Hyde Park Free Library to help the library meet its overall financial objectives before we close out our books for the year.

This annual outreach to our patrons and supporters is an ideal way for library users to support our efforts at whatever level of funding best suits them. Your tax deductible year end donation will go great lengths to help the library meet its funding goals and to enhance the services we offer to all our patrons.

For your convenience, we are including a copy of the Appeal Donation Form below. You may find it useful to print it out to attach with your gift.

We will also put a link to a reproducible form on our website. Paper copies will also be available at the library circulation desk. Should you be unable to print the form, you may find these paper copies useful.

It is, of course, not absolutely necessary to enclose this document with any gift. You may simply note on your check's memo line that you are making a contribution toward the Year End Appeal or otherwise indicate the nature of your gift, as you prefer.

Donations can be dropped off at the circulation desk on your next visit--or mailed directly to The Hyde Park Free Library, 2 Main St., Hyde Park, NY 12538.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

ANNUAL APPEAL FORM

Attached is my gift to help support the Hyde Park Free Library (Please Circle Amount):

- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- \$10
- Other

- Please keep my gift anonymous.

Name

Address