



Volume 4
Issue 2
June 2011

THE BOOKMARK

Oradell Public Library

Spring 2011 Newsletter



Local History Room

Some years ago, Mr. David Brugnoli of Oradell acquired the Chapin home at 515 Oradell Avenue. While examining the contents of the home, he found some Oradell treasures up in the attic. Tucked away in a corner he came across a shirt box full of old letters that Helen Chapin had saved. The letters were tightly folded, and probably had not been opened for over 100 years.

After David died, the box of letters was passed along to our Borough Historian, Frank Vierling, who kept them safe. Then last year, Frank gave them to the Local History Room.

With all the work there is to do in the History Room, the letters stayed safely in their box, waiting for the right moment to be brought forth.

That moment came in the spring of this year (2011), when Aylone Katzin came on board as an intern from River Dell High School. Aylone, a senior, is a history major who was looking for a civic project that would expose him to new and interesting aspects of his major.

Aylone started right in scanning and linking photographs that have already been archived. There were literally thousands that needed to be done, and Aylone pitched right in.

However, in order to make the job more interesting, I decided to take out the Chapin letters and give Aylone a chance to tackle something new, and certainly, more exciting. Each letter was carefully unfolded, and then placed in a plastic sleeve. The sleeves were stacked and weight was added, just a little, bit by bit. The fiber in the creases wanted to be relaxed and stretched, not snapped open.

After the letters were safely open, Aylone sorted them based on whether they had a full date, a partial date, or no date at all. The letters with full dates were tackled first, after being arranged in chronological order.

Imagine the delight and surprise of both Aylone and myself when the first letter was found to have been written in 1792,

over a hundred years before Oradell became a town. The document is a medical report of a man who injured his leg, and after several months of infection, had to have it amputated.

The next group of missives are from the 1820's, some of them from a person trying to encourage a more Christian life for her friend. The handwriting is not the best, and the style of writing used back then, plus the lack of quality pens, makes deciphering the work rather difficult.

However, one of the fascinating aspects of this work is when Aylone and I work together to proofread what he has transcribed, and to see how each of us interprets the old-fashioned, quill pen, handwriting. It can best be described as challenging and fun.

There is a block of letters from the middle 1800's, some of which deal with the Civil War and other events. There is a large bundle of letters that are full of poems. And this is just looking at the letters with complete dates. Who knows what lies within the letters that are partially or completely undated?

After the transcriptions have been proofread, and represent our best efforts to interpret the old fashioned

handwriting, freshly printed copies will be placed in a three ring binder that may be perused by the public when the History Room is open on the [first Friday of every month from 1-5 pm](#).

It will take many months, even years, to complete the job of transcribing the letters so carefully saved by Ms. Chapin. More volunteers are needed! If you think this might be something you would enjoy, please contact the library. Fortunately, Nicholas Didio, an honor student, and a junior at Bergen Catholic, stepped forward this spring and assisted with some of the transcriptions, but it's a slow job and one that needs many hands, and definitely cannot be rushed.

Genealogical research is planned for the future that may uncover the relationship of the writers to the Chapin family. ■

George M. Carter, Borough Archivist



Aylone Katzin working at the Archive Desk



The Chapin home at 515 Oradell Avenue in 1933.



The Chapin home at 515 Oradell Avenue in 2011.

Director's Corner



While enjoying the lecture on Walt Whitman by George Wallace on the evening of May 16, 2011, I found myself imagining that I was sitting in a beautiful salon or living room, where I was the host to a large number of well-informed and stimulating guests. Not only was I learning from the invited speaker, but

also I was offering my own comments and listening to the questions of those who were invited to share in my private salon. But this was not just any living room; it was in the Library's South Reading Room. My guests were not just private invitees, but members of the public who, like me, were eager to learn something new about Walt Whitman and those whom he has influenced throughout the years. "Whitman and Beyond: Fanfares for the Common Man" was not just a private parlor lecture, but a rich and electrifying presentation for the public by George Wallace, an award-winning poet and journalist who has performed his work across America and in Europe, addressing anyone who walked in the doors of the Library and sat down to experience the talk. What a great way to observe Whitman's 192nd anniversary in the month of May.

On the evening of April 5, 2011 in celebration of National Library Week (one week early) Information Services Librarian Gabriella Radujko presented a lecture and slide program on her trip to India to help build up a school library, "Discovering India: A Story of Books, Elephants, and a Golden Temple."

The evening included refreshments (both American style and Indian delicacies), Indian music, and poetry besides the lecture and slide show. It was most gratifying to see members of the public trying Indian food for the first time and conversing with a wide array of Oradell residents and other guests about the many topics and issues that were raised in the context of the program. Again the Library was at the center of this great interface among so many different local personalities and characters, who seemed to want to linger even after the Library was closing its doors for the night.

Both lectures were also accompanied by informative exhibitions in our two display cases in the Reference Room.

Whether we present the reading of a radio program by the Teaneck New Theatre, or an instructional program given by a member of the Oradell Environmental Committee, or a workshop on nutrition and health for seniors, we have the Friends of the Library to thank for this and so many other programs.

Aside from books, DVDs, music CDs, audio books on CD, online databases, downloadable audio books, e-books, and so many other items made available to the public, we also offer many public computers with internet access, a WiFi environment, computer and job-seeking instruction, current and informative book displays and exhibitions, a cool corner on a hot day, and so much more.

Gentle Reminder: The Friends cannot do all that they do without your support. Please consider increasing your donation to the Friends and also helping them actively with the many duties they have to perform. We thank you for whatever you can do. ■

John J. Trause, Director

Books - Books - Books

We have been doing quite well with our on-going book sale, even though we only have a limited amount of space in the lower level of the library in which to display them. And for that, we thank our many patrons and supporting friends.

So well, in fact, that *we are in need of new inventory!* Right now we are able to accept any book you have, old or new, in good condition or not-so-good. We now have three possible outlets for our books, so just bring whatever you have. If you need to clear off some of your shelves, and your books aren't too old, we could use them. Just box them up, drop them off at the library, and you'll be helping the Friends of the Library raise much needed funds to help pay for all the great adult and youth programming you find at the library.

And while we're mentioning books, we have to give a huge vote of thanks to the gentleman to the right, George Materon, who single-handedly has been keeping our book shelves well stocked ever since the library opened after the renovation. George has been an active member of the Friends for a long time, and we are extremely fortunate that he enjoys working with the books for us.

By the way, if there are any residents who have books to offer to the Friends, but who find it difficult to transport those books to the library, please call the library (201-262-2613) and they will arrange to have one of the Friends members come and pick them up. ■



George Materon—Active Friend

Joseph Colella, President

Be a Friend of the Oradell Library, Participate, Join Your Neighbors.

Information Services Librarian

Recently, in May, I had the opportunity to help a community leader edit a document that would be presented at the county level in connection with issues of import to senior citizens. It was a great example of how a simple question about changing the font on a word document turned into a conversation about the document's content and how it would be used for advocacy. I jumped in to help it become better organized and easier to read. Hopefully, it will have helped someone. Libraries, including the Oradell Public Library, are places that strengthen social capital by connecting people, promoting civic involvement, and engaging the community in the learning process.

In April, I presented a slide show about my recent trip to India where I helped build out a private, school library. The audience asked me questions about religious beliefs and practice as well as spirituality. While I was unqualified to answer those questions, an Oradell resident and frequent library user made note of the curiosity of the audience and subsequently volunteered to create a presentation to address those topics in the future. Social capital at work.

One of our recent art exhibitions came about in response to a reference query about finding images online. A conversation about those images turned into an invitation for the library user, an artist, to consider exhibiting at the library. The opening took place earlier this year. Again, social capital. Library users visit the library to get information all the time. But sometimes, the answers become the beginnings of new conversations which build this community's social capital, to the benefit of all its citizens. ■



Gabriella Radujko, Information Services Librarian

Youth Department Summer Programs



Registration is required for most programs. Sign up in person or by phone at the Jr. Room.

Tuesday Evenings Family Fun Series 7 PM – all ages welcome

Funded by the Oradell

Friends of the Library:
 July 12 Sing and dance with musicians Scott and Beth Bierko
 July 19 Learn about and hunt for fossils with an

expert (Registration required)

July 26 Enjoy Nappy's Puppets' presentation of "Jack and the Beanstalk"

Funded by the Book and Needle Club of Oradell in Memory of Debby Kyritz:

August 2 Thrill at the magic of Mark Wurst

Summer Reading Program : June 27 – August 22 "One World, Many Stories"

Ages 3 – 12. Open to Oradell residents only. Each child will keep a "passport" of books read. There will be raffle prizes and a party for participants on Sept. 10. The Junior Room is now accepting donations for raffle prizes. Passports available June 27.

Story Times : July 11 – August 10 (sign ups start June 1)

Enjoy stories, flannel board activities, songs and crafts at these times:
 Monday 10:30 – 11 ages 2 – 3
 Wednesdays 10:30 – 11 ages 3 – 5

"Talk it Up" Teen Reading Groups for grades 7 – 12. July 11 – August 11

Oradell and River Edge Libraries will be hosting 4 groups. Students can register at either library and attend at either library. More information on registration (late June) will be available soon at both libraries. ■

Susan Pelavin, Youth Services Librarian

Other Sale Items



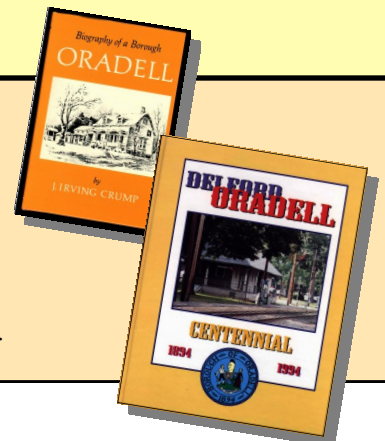
Oradell History Books:

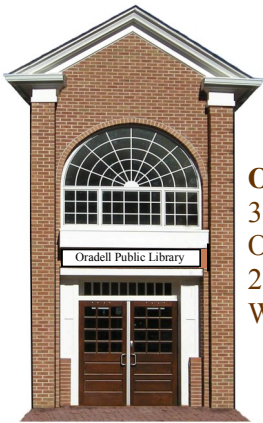
- 75th Anniversary \$5.00
- 100th Anniversary \$15.00

Illustrated Note Cards \$10.00

Our Library Book Bag \$10.00

Sale items are available at the front desk.





Oradell Public Library
 375 Kinderkamack Road
 Oradell, NJ 07649
 201-262-2613
 Website: Oradell.bccls.org

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Friends Officers:
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 Leah Carter, Vice President
 George Carter, Secretary/Treasurer

Library Hours:
 Monday – Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Thursday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday Closed

Adult Programs

Louis Landon – musical program (Cole Porter, George Gershwin – keyboard), Monday, June 13, 2011, 7 p. m. South Reading Room
 County Sheriff’s Office (Identity Theft) Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 7 p. m. South Reading Room.



Teaneck New Theatre performers—April 25

William “Pat” Schuber – Trail of Tears program Monday, July 18 2011, 7 p. m. North Reading Room.

Tentative:
 Ray Turkin – slide show of his travel

Joanne Chack, Master Gardener—March 26 photography, Thursday, July 14, 2011 or Thursday, August 4, 2011. Meeting Room.

Tentative: Burt Goldstein – lecture and slide show on his photography – how-to lecture for YA and adults. Thursday, July 14, 2011 or Monday, July 25, 2011. ■



Joanne Chack, Master Gardener—March 26

Dianne Daniele, Program Chair

Library Meetings are held in the Lower Level Meeting Room:
 Board of Trustee Meetings, Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
 Friends of the Library Meetings, First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.