

Bright Days Ahead

It's that bittersweet time of year. On the one hand, we may feel like we're reaching our limit of seasonal picnics and excursions. The pool isn't looking quite as pristine and crystal-clear as it did in June. The lawn has lost some luster, and the garden has reached its peak. Yet, the dog days are curled up around us like a faithful friend, and they're sticking close.

Good! Isn't this what we live for most of the year here in the Northeast? If we're feeling a little bit maxed out on the adventurous aspects of summer, yet wondering how much more fun we can possibly cram into this short season while we still can, that's a good problem to have. A less spontaneous existence is just around the corner for many of us.

For kids, however, this stage of the summer can start to drag on a bit. The novelty of carefree days has worn off, and perhaps they are actually craving the social aspects and predictable routine of school (though they might not readily admit it). Our "Universe of Stories" Summer Reading Program is drawing to a close, too. So it's important to keep them engaged, encourage them to keep reading, and bring them to the library on a regular basis. We stand ready to nurture lifelong learners at all ages and stages.

"Feelin' Groovy" Gala – Sept. 28

We're anticipating a fabulous evening for our fifth annual Library Gala, happening Sat. Sept. 28 evening at Albany Country Club. This event is sponsored by the Guilderland Library Foundation, a group of dedicated volunteers who fundraise to support programming, collections, and other improvements to the library. The honorees for this year are former Guilderland Public Library Board Trustee and 2018 Upper Hudson Library Association Trustee of the Year Chris Aldrich, and Susan Novotny, owner of the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza.

"Feelin' Groovy" is this year's theme, and attendees are welcome to come dressed in 1960s or 1970s-themed attire. A local DJ will be playing catchy tunes and encouraging everyone to dance the night away. We hope you'll join us for the festive fun!

We'd like to welcome and thank our newest sponsors:

- The William Coons Team at Howard Hanna Real Estate - \$500 Bestseller Level
- Expressive Journeys Music Therapy - \$500 Bestseller Level
- Butler Rowland Mays Architects, LLP - \$500 Bestseller Level
- The Bombardier Family - \$250 Novella Level

They join our aforementioned supporters, with our gratitude:

- Troy Miller Construction/CM Fox Realty - \$2,000 Masterpiece Level
- Jaeger & Flynn - \$1,000 Classic Level
- The Rosenblum Companies - \$1,000 Classic Level
- Crossgates Mall - \$500 Bestseller Level
- Girvin & Ferlazzo - \$500 Bestseller Level
- The Ten Eyck Group - \$500 Bestseller Level
- Carter Conboy Law Firm - \$250 Novella Level

To add your name to this fabulous list of supporters, contact Guilderland Library Foundation President Steve Wacksman at Wacksman20@gmail.com, or contact me at wilest@guilderlandlibrary.org or at the library. We greatly value these vital community partnerships and thank you for your support!

We're also looking for couples and individuals to augment their support of the library by serving on the Honorary Committee, at a cost of \$100 per ticket, which includes your meal. Honorary Committee tickets can be purchased by mailing a check payable to the Guilderland Library Foundation to their mailbox here at the library: 2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland, NY 12084.

Lastly, we're looking for bid-worthy items and experiences to be showcased in our live auction. Examples from past galas include weekends or weeks at summer homes or Manhattan apartments, tickets to Broadway Shows, concerts, sporting events, and the like. All donations are sincerely appreciated!

Regular tickets to the Gala are priced at \$75 each and sell out very quickly. Please plan to join us at the Library Foundation's biggest fundraising event of the year!

Help Wanted

Free personal income tax counseling is available through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program. Now in its 51st year, Tax-Aide has helped more than 68 million low- and moderate-income taxpayers nationwide. You don't have to be an AARP member, and there's no age requirement to get tax help from IRS-certified volunteers, though many recipients tend to be age 50 and up. We serve about 500 people here at the library during tax season through this program.

There's an opening for an **AARP Tax-Aide Local Coordinator** (a volunteer position) to oversee this vital program here in 2020. The commitment is Mondays and Saturdays, February through mid-April, with the following specific duties beginning in late fall:

- scheduling site availability, volunteer assignments and tax prep appointments
- communicating effectively with all stakeholders
- resolving problems and issues that may occur
- developing a working knowledge of program policies and procedures
- keeping strict confidentiality of client information
- maintaining and ordering supplies

The Local Coordinator must attend training December/January and pass IRS certification, but does not need to be certified as a tax preparer. If you'd like to find out more about volunteering for this position, please contact Jerry Seeley, District Coordinator (jseeley1018@gmail.com; 518-477-8181). Thank you for your interest in the Tax Aide Program.

Speaking of 2020 – our country has a Census to complete next year. Libraries will play a key role in this process; more on that in a future column. Meanwhile...the summer sun is starting to wane. But rest assured, there are bright days ahead.