



FRIENDS
OF THE
AVON
LIBRARY

Beyond the Bookends



Newsletter of the Friends of the Library & the Board of Trustees

Winter 2018

Chrissie & John D'Esopo's Wild and Woolly Conifer World

A special visual presentation that showcases four seasons of their creative conifer wonderland!

Saturday, February 10, 2018

11:00 am & 2:00 pm

(the same great program, with two time slots to choose from!)

Snow date: Sunday, February 11, 2018 @ 2:00 pm

Chrissie and John have been gardening at their Avon home for over thirty years. It has been an evolution from the beginning gardens of perennials and annuals to the extraordinary new look of conifers, topiaries, and rare shrubs, with the addition of "in your face" enormous annuals. Join Chrissie and John for a lively photo display with music that will close with a gardening Q & A session.



This program is free & open to the public - no registration is required. First come, first seated.

Letter from the Co-President of the Friends of Avon Public Library

December 2017

Hello, Friends!

I'm one of those corny moms who asks everyone sitting around my Thanksgiving table: *What are you thankful for?* Although family, food, and good health rise right to the top of most of our lists, I've decided public libraries have not been getting the appreciation they deserve. This past Thanksgiving, I gave a shout out to The Avon Public Library. Where else can you go for all the free books your heart desires, CDs, films, children's story hours, computer classes, craft classes, author visits, book clubs, cultural presentations, free answers to all your questions, comfy chairs, conference rooms, study rooms, ice cream sundaes every August, and free brownies with your Sunday concerts? Where else, indeed. Of course all of this magic doesn't just happen with the wave of a magic wand. It takes a lot of Friends and volunteers. And so, of course, I am grateful for Friends like you.

Looking back: This autumn has been a busy and successful season for the Friends. A special thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to another successful Book Sale. Our profits from the Book Sale, along with your generous contributions, made it possible for The Friends Board to approve over \$25,000 in Wish List, programs and other line-item expenditures that make our library an exceptional home away from home. Many thanks to the Author Luncheon Committee, the volunteers who brought us the inspirational author Chris Bohjalian and organized a delicious luncheon at The North House.

Coming up: This winter we look forward to another season of the *Sundays-at-Three* music series. We are especially excited to welcome *The Amazing Castle*, an installation which you will find on the second floor that will offer exciting opportunities for children and adults alike. In fact, we've scheduled a "Friends Storm the Castle" Wine and Cheese event in the Amazing Castle for Friday February 2. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for your invitation!

Finally, as we look forward to our winter holidays, vacations and the excitement of the inevitable New England snowstorms, a very special message of appreciation goes to the Avon Public Library staff, for their extraordinary dedication, expertise, and support.

And now, back to my book (*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman).

Happy reading everyone!

Lynn Katz, Co-President, Friends of the Avon Library

the Amazing Castle™

At the Avon Free Public Library

Storm the castle & explore life in medieval times

- ◆ Travel back in time to this fanciful village!
- ◆ Role play as Lords, Ladies, and Villagers!
- ◆ Serve a magical feast at the great hall!

**JANUARY 29 –
MAY 25, 2018**

Sponsored by

*The Friends of the Avon Public Library
& Carmon Funeral Home*



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The Amazing Castle was created by Minnesota Children's Museum

Russia: Past, Present, Future

A conversation with Dr. Sergei Kambalov

**Wednesday, January 10, 2018
@ 2:00 pm**

(Snow date: Wed., Jan. 17, 2018 @ 2:00 pm)



This program will explore how Russia's politics have evolved, provide context for what we're hearing about Russia in the news, and provide time for an audience Q&A.

Lecture & discussion will be led by **Dr. Sergei Kambalov**. Dr. Kambalov retired from the United Nations in 2010, his last position was the Executive Coordinator of the U.N. Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development.

This free program is open to all—no registration is required.



5th Annual Teen Pizza Taste Off

Round 1: Wed., Jan. 17th, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Snack & vote your favorite from four local pizzerias.

Round 2: Thurs., Jan. 18th, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Snack & vote your favorite from four local pizzerias.

Finals: Fri., Jan. 19th, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Final faceoff between the top pizza from Day 1 vs. the top pizza from Day 2.



Open to teens in grades 7-12.

Please sign up and reserve your seat — space is limited!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Avon Library

Live Birds of Prey & Reptiles!

Saturday, January 27, 2018

**2:00 pm in the
Community Room**

All ages are welcome at this drop-in program—no registration required!



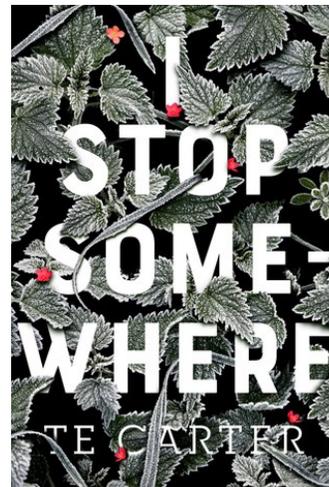
BOOK LAUNCH & AUTHOR SIGNING!

I Stop Somewhere with debut author T.E. Carter

A joint event for our adult & teen audiences

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

T.E. Carter's stirring and visceral debut not only discusses and dismantles rape culture, but it also reminds us what it is to be human. A searing, heartbreaking story of a lost teenager, and the town she leaves behind. Book clubs who have read *Beartown* by Frederic Backman will enjoy discussing this book. Books will be available for sale and signing at this event!



2018 Winter Music Series

Sundays at Three



January 7 ❄️ **Alex Nakhimovsky, piano,**
Norman Johnson, guitar, June Bisantz, vocals

What finer way to spend a mid-winter's afternoon than by basking in the warmth of Latin/Brazilian jazz sprinkled with a masterful touch of classical overtones. Brilliantly composed by Mr. Nakhimovsky, with lyrics by Ms. Bisantz, the music revels in the many ways love is expressed in our lives.

January 21 ❄️ **Sandro Russo, concert pianist**

Acclaimed for his profound sense of poetry and distinctive style, Sandro Russo, a native of Italy now based in New York City, has been in demand as a soloist in many venues around the world. His playing has often been referred to as a throwback to the grand tradition of elegant pianism and beautiful sound.



February 4 ❄️ **Peter Dzialo, cello,**
Tamila Azadaliyeva, piano

The power of music to stir the soul is evident in this special presentation of two romantic sonatas for cello and piano, those of César Franck (in A~major) and Edvard Grieg (in A~minor). The duo of Peter Dzialo and Tamila Azadaliyeva create music that is nothing short of magical.

February 18 ❄️ **The United States Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band**

Treat yourself to a rousing session of classic jazz, blues, and rags served up with a "New Orleans" flavor by the acclaimed United States Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band. They've entertained audiences across America, in the former Soviet Union, England, Japan, and Taiwan. Come see for yourself what all the excitement is about.



March 4 ❄️ **Sirena Huang, violin, Pi-Hsun Shih, piano**

One of her generation's most celebrated violinists, Sirena made her solo debut with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra in 2004 at the age of nine. She has since performed in seventeen countries appearing as featured soloist with more than fifty prestigious ensembles. This will be her second appearance at the Avon Library.

March 18 ❄️ **Luis de Moura Castro, piano**

Long-time resident of Avon and citizen of the world, Luis is an internationally renowned concert pianist and one of this country's most sought after piano teachers. No stranger to the Avon Library, his performances here always attract enthusiastic, capacity audiences. He is an artist supreme and treasure to behold. His playing is extraordinary.



March 25 ❄️ **Bill Holloman & The Cartells**

Avon resident Bill Holloman has recorded or performed with Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Elton John, Diana Ross, the B52's, Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers, and a galaxy of other musical stars. In this, our season's closer, he's joined by a trio of long-time partners-in-fun for an hour of songs from the 40's to today. Stand by for an uplifting dose of four-part vocal harmony!

These free programs, made possible by the Friends of the Avon Library, take place in the library's Community Room. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Free tickets are available at the door starting at 2:15 pm. Doors open at 2:30 pm. The hour-long programs start at 3:00pm.

THE FAIRY GRANDMOTHER'S Holiday Magic Show

Sat., December 16 at 2 pm
Library Community Room

For ages 3 to 7 - Just drop in!

Join us for a merry celebration of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Families with children ages 3 to 7 will be delighted by Debbie O'Carrolls amazing stage magic, silly comedy and creative audience participation.

❄️ Sponsored by Friends of the Avon Library ❄️

The Holidays are coming! Don't forget that the **Booktique** has high-quality books at Book Sale prices and is restocked weekly! You can pay for your purchases at the Circulation Desk.

book-tique

THE STUPENDOUS



Drop In

Saturday, March 3

All Ages

2 pm

Sponsored by The Friends of the Avon Free Public Library

FRIENDS of the
Avon Free Public Library
281 Country Club Road
Avon, CT 06001

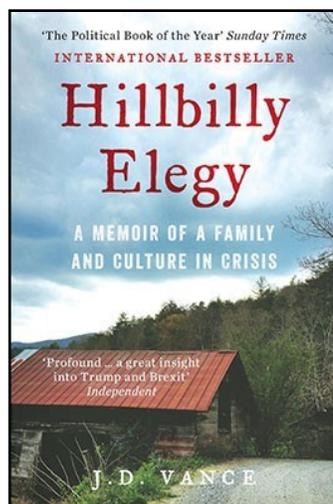
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Economic Inequality in America

Past, Present and Future: Understanding the history of economic and racial inequality, how it affects us today, and what it means for the future.

This program will use *Hillbilly Elegy* as a launch point for discussion.

**Thursday, March 8, 2018
@ 6:30 pm**



Please read *Hillbilly Elegy* before attending this program.

This program will be led by Beth Merenstein, PhD, a professor in the Sociology department at Central CT State University, where she teaches in the areas of race and ethnicity, homelessness and housing, immigration, and advanced research methods. More recently, her work has focused on community engagement initiatives, and analyses of homeless and housing policies and approaches in CT communities.

This free program is open to all—no registration is required.

We've got your weekends covered! Our **Sunday hours** are now in effect! We will be open on Sunday afternoons from **December through April**. Come and visit us from **1:00 pm - 5:00 pm!**



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

December 24 & December 25 — **CLOSED**

December 31 & January 1 — **CLOSED**

January 15 — **CLOSED**

February 19 — **CLOSED**



KEEP CALM AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Our Friends membership year began in September - have you renewed yours yet? Your donations as a member of the Friends, along with the revenue from the Annual Book Sale, are the Friends' only sources of income. Please take a moment to renew your membership today - we need your support!