

The Idea!

The Newsletter for the Western Sullivan Public Library

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At Jan. 21 Public Computer Center grand opening in Jeffersonville, speakers included U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey, above.



Clockwise from above, state Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther; community members gather at the grand opening; WSPL's computer technician and trainer Patrick McCullough.



It's a party!

Celebrating WSPL's free new public computer program

State Sen. John Bonacic received understanding nods when he confided to a crowd gathered at Western Sullivan Public Library's Jeffersonville branch that his grandson "puts me to shame" when it comes to computer expertise.



Computer Center Director Cindy Menges, standing, and WSPL Director Susan Scott demonstrate new laptop computer for state Sen. John Bonacic.

"Quite frankly, I'm intimidated by computers," said Bonacic, speaking at the Jan. 21 grand opening of the WSPL's new Public Computer Center.

That is precisely the point of a \$244,000 federal grant to WSPL: to reach out to people in need of first-time computer skills and to help boost the expertise of those who already have knowledge.

Funded through federal stimulus money, the endeavor has already allowed for the outfitting of new computer labs at each of WSPL's three library branches.

In addition, project director Cindy Menges and technician Patrick McCullough are offering one-on-one instruction; group classes began on Tuesday, Jan. 25. For more information, call 482-4350 for the

Jeffersonville branch, 887-4040 for Callicoon, and 252-3360 for Narrowsburg.

'I congratulate and salute Western Sullivan Public Library. You will provide the opportunity for many in our community to overcome the digital divide.'
— Congressman Maurice Hinchey

Also present were state Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and a representative from the office of U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand. Linda Todd of the New York State Library System, who was instrumental in approving WSPL's grant application, said she sought not only large libraries but "the smaller libraries across New York State — those with capacity and compassion." Todd said she found what she was looking for in Western Sullivan Public Library.

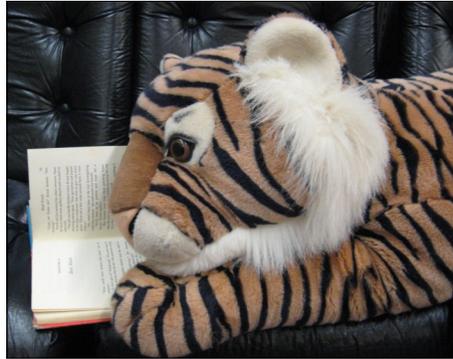
Cabin fever? Try knitting, chess, art, reading....

- ✓ First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Jeff branch. **Sit-n-Knit**. New class, open to all levels. Free. Friendly instruction and sharing of techniques. Hosted by Linda McCabe.
- ✓ Fridays Feb. 11, 18, 25, 6 p.m. Narrowsburg branch. **Chess for Fun**. Open to all. Free.



Saturday, Feb. 19, 3 to 5 p.m. Jeff branch. **FindArt and First Fridays Art & Poetry Extravaganza and Reception**. With Museum of Modern Art educator Kirstin Broussard. Come see art created by local families in the 2010 FindArt program, and experience poems written by First Friday audience members, inspired by the Picturing America Art Collection. Free and open to all. Gallery show Feb. 12-26 in Jeff branch's Community Room.

The Idea! Editor:



- ✓ Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. Lilian Braun Book Club: **Dessert with Mr. Q**. Jeff branch. Discussion with dessert on "The Cat Who Lived High." Free. Hosted by Jane Lawski.

Love your library...

Monday, Feb. 14 at 5 p.m.

Western Sullivan Public Library
Board of Directors
Budget Meeting
Narrowsburg Branch



Attend the meeting and let the Library Board know you appreciate WSPL as trustees prepare a budget for the upcoming year. All welcome.

- ✓ Tuesdays, Feb. 15, 22 at noon, Jeff branch. **Drop-in story time**.
Wednesdays, Feb. 16, 23, 2 p.m., Narrowsburg branch. **Drop-in story time**.
Thursdays, Feb. 17, 24, noon, Callicoon branch. **Drop-in story time**.

Upcoming in March

"How to Write a 10-Minute Play." Laboratory with playwright and screenwriter Bonnie Culver of Wilkes Barre, Pa. Two-day weekend workshop at Jeffersonville branch with date to be announced. Open to 12 participants — adults and teens — who would like to explore an accessible play form.



Classes will include introduction to 10-minute plays, exploration of character, setting, dialogue, group writing exercises, editing, revising and presentation culminating in a staged reading of new work by local actors.

Registration fee of \$10 is requested to hold your place. Watch Jeffersonville branch for sign-up sheets. Program is supported by a grant from New York State Council of the Arts as administered by Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

Reel Delay on films at our library

I'm a Manhattan transplant as of this past May, and I have to say it's amazing that one can find a film like *The Kids Are Alright* on the WSPL library shelf before the Oscars and Golden Globe awards are even announced. In the city, I would have had to wait on a queue for months before being able to take home a huge hit like this one.

Locally, *Kids* is also notable because the film features celeb Mark Ruffalo, who lives in Callicoon. He plays the sperm donor for same-sex couple Annette Bening and Julianne Moore, who are raising their kids together. The son wants to find his father, and his success changes the dynamics of the family. Within the first 10 minutes, you're hooked on the realism of this movie. Bening's got the best lines and, as usual for this superb actress, her range of emotion is fantastic. No wonder *Kids* is up for three Academy Awards, and walked away with a Golden Globe for best comedy.

— John Delay

Great writers on reading

Germaine Greer

"Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light nor dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed."