

Friends of the Simsbury Library
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Simsbury, CT 06070

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TO:

CHECK IT OUT: MUSEUM PASSES AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY

The Friends purchase museum passes that enable you to get free or discounted admissions to many museums in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Complete information about the museum pass program is available at www.simsburylibrary.info. Just follow the Museum Pass link.

You may reserve a museum pass by calling the Library Children's Room at 860.658.7663 ext. 2300, or you may reserve a pass online by visiting the Library's website. Passes may be reserved up to two months in advance.

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame
Connecticut Science Center (Hartford)
Connecticut Trolley Museum
Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
Florence Griswold Museum
Hill-Stead Museum
Lutz Children's Museum
Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
Mark Twain House
Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center
Mystic Marinelife Aquarium

Mystic Seaport
New Britain Museum of American Art
New England Air Museum
Norman Rockwell Museum
Peabody Museum of Natural History (Yale)
Phelps Tavern Museum and Homestead
State Parks and Forests Day Pass
Springfield Museums
The Children's Museum (West Hartford)
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum
Zoo in Forest Park

Marilee Porter, *Items and Museum Passes*



LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING

A Letter from our President by Julie MacKay

What a long winter it has been! The Friends welcomes spring, as we begin collecting for the fall book sale, and look forward to the many wonderful programs being hosted by the Library and the Friends.

As we all are aware, this is a very difficult time for libraries as they strive to maintain current standards of offering quality services at the mercy of state and local budget shortfalls. The current proposed town budget includes less funding for certain key services that may affect Library hours as well as levels of staff support. Therefore, your support of the Friends will be crucial in aiding the Library, and will help counter any deficiencies that may occur as a result of a reduced budget. Our thanks for the continuing support of all of our present members and we look forward to welcoming new members as well.

Our new e-mail communication system, **Constant Contact**, has been a great success providing up to date information about Library news and events as well as information about cancellations, which were so frequent with the snow this season! If you have not been receiving email from the Friends and would like to, please send a quick note with your e-mail address to simsburyfriends@gmail.com.

I hope that you all will join us at the library on **April 27th** for the **Night of 1000 Stars**. We have the pleasure of welcoming many vibrant local personalities

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to what is always a fun, enlightening evening and we hope to have our favorite emcee Warren Boyle on hand to regale us with his good humor. Then, on **April 29th** we will host an evening with author Michael Takiff, who will talk about his book, **A Complicated Man: the Life of Bill Clinton**. Also, we are fortunate that Ann Hood, the best-selling author of **The Knitting Circle** and **The Red Thread** will be speaking at the Friends Annual Meeting on **Thursday, May 19th**.

We hope you can join us for these exciting events. In the meantime, please look for us on Facebook; and help spread the word about the Friends!

Julie MacKay, *President*

BUDGET UPDATE

The proposed fiscal year 2012 Selectmen's Budget for the Library has cut out all previously grant funded positions. These shortfalls amount to the loss of 60 staff hours per week. This represents an 8% staff cut from fiscal year 2011 levels. The materials budgets will also continue at their present reduced levels.

The impact of these cuts will be felt in fewer materials to download or circulate, less help for patrons who need technical or reference help, a longer waiting period to repair non-functioning pc's and printers, less book club support, and curtailed Library publicity on programs and services.

The Board of Selectmen did restore \$6,000 to the Library's Budget, which the Library will use to maintain the job-seekers classes and services.

The Library Board will work with me to determine the most efficient way to run Library services in the future. The Library Budget represents 1.5 % of the total Town Budget.

Sue Bullock, *Library Director*