



SPRING
2007

MCPL NEWS



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

TO OUR

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 21, 2007

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Centereach Building

Something for Everyone!

Performances • Music and Dance • Crafts & Exhibits • Kids Stuff

Community Debut of the Documentary Film
Beyond Books - Middle Country Public Library



ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES COME CELEBRATE THE LIBRARY'S FIRST 50 YEARS

In April the Library reaches another significant milestone. It will have been in operation for exactly *half a century!* So, while we at MCPL are ordinarily poised with an eye to the future, it seems an appropriate time to pause for a moment and take a look back. You are invited to reflect and celebrate with us.

On Saturday, April 21st, we will host a day-long, community celebration of the Library's 50th Anniversary. Lots of festivities are planned, including the debut of *Beyond Books – Middle Country Public Library*, a documentary film that traces the Library's history from its earliest days – making note of our many accomplishments and national recognition – and concludes with a look toward the future. An historical art exhibit – *From Two Storefronts to a National Model* – will be on display in the Community Room.

Ongoing screenings of the film throughout the day will be accompanied by music and dancing, magicians and food, performances and demonstrations, readings and crafts. Many of our children's and teen clubs will participate (including the Teen Advisory Council, Book Buddies, Puppetry, Science and Technology, Sign Language). Be sure to stop by The Museum Corner and view its newly mounted retrospective: *20 Years of Memories*. In short, there will be something for everyone, young and old and in between.

Looking back over the past 50 years to see how far we've come, we're pleased with the quality and breadth of our current resources. Still, we always anticipate the next step, envisioning how our community hub will evolve in the years ahead, and how we can best satisfy our patrons' changing needs. Program registration on January 20th saw 5,007 program spots filled in a single day! In-person registration brought 744 people into the Library, but our latest innovation, online program registration, enabled 160 individuals to reserve their spots from the comfort of their homes. *Family Place Libraries™*, the national model created at MCPL, has added a new feature, a "Reading Den," thanks to a federal grant that will integrate the educational media of *Between the Lions*, an award-winning PBS series, with the resources of the Library.

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- **Between the Lions "Reading Den"**
- **Friends of MCPL - Upcoming Events**
- **20 Years of Memories**
- **International Museum Day - 5/17/07**

LITERACY EMERGES FROM BETWEEN THE LIONS



GET WILD ABOUT READING



Family Place at Middle Country Public Library will participate in a federally funded grant aimed at improving the reading skills of young children by expanding their access to engaging educational media. Sirius Thinking, producer of PBS's award-winning educational public television series *Between the Lions*, in partnership with the Americans for Libraries Council and MCPL will pilot a "Reading Den" at the Library for kindergarten families from the Unity Drive School.

Children's Librarian Kristen Todd and Coordinator of Early Childhood Services and Regional Family Place Lisa Kropp (pictured left to right at front) welcome seven cubs – and their parents – to the Reading Den. Seen (left to right) are Connor McMurray, Joshua Cook, Bryan Flores, Samantha Correa, Shannon Isoldi, Myles Chiarello and Rubaiya Nasim.

MAKING OUR STAFF PROUD... AND HAPPY

ONE OF LI'S BEST PLACES TO WORK?
MCPL!

MAKING WORK
"WORK"

The Middle Country Public Library was a top-scorer in last fall's *Long Island Business News'* Best Places to Work Competition. Publisher John L. Kominicki noted a positive workplace environment encourages employees to work as a team, challenges them to be ever better, and features work that is fulfilling, fun – even joyful. MCPL staff indicated by their votes that they believe in the Library's vision, share its commitment to excellence – and love to come to work!

The Middle Country Public Library received an *Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility*, an employer recognition program under the auspices of *When Work Works*, a nationwide initiative on workplace effectiveness and flexibility, designed to share research on current best practices.

TEEN TUTOR VOLUNTEERS



These young men and women from Newfield and Centereach High Schools were part of the group of volunteers who participated in a 10-week program which provided free, one-on-one, skill-building assistance at the Library to Middle Country elementary school students in grades kindergarten through five. This series is organized with the Selden Centereach Youth Association.

REMEMBERING 20 YEARS IN



The very first exhibit mounted in the Museum Corner in 1987 was the perennial early childhood favorite: Dinosaurs. Since then the Museum Corner has displayed a multitude of themes, some scientific (Solar, Seashore), some historical (The American Schoolhouse, The American Cowboy) and some artistic (Refrigerator Art/Kids in the Kitchen). The current Retrospective returns some of the activities and programs relating to exhibits from years gone by for a nostalgic review, as we recollect 20 years in the Museum Corner. This spring and summer, Family Drop-In programs will provide an opportunity for adults and children to enjoy the Museum Corner together. And don't miss International Museum Day on Thursday, May 17th, celebrating the enrichment to be gained from the more than 25 area museums represented.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES

	2006/2007	2007/2008
SALARIES Professional, Clerical, Computer Support, Page, Custodial/Security	\$6,298,100	\$6,528,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS Retirement, Social Security, Workers Compensation, Life, Dental, Disability, Health, EAP, Annuity	\$1,959,100	\$2,023,200
LIBRARY MATERIALS Furniture & Equipment, Books, Microforms/CD Roms, Audio Materials, Subscription Services, Visual Materials, Realia/Other	\$1,266,000	\$1,276,000
OPERATING EXPENSES Custodial Services, Training & Conference, Office & Library Supplies, Telecommunications, Cartage, Postage, Publicity & Printing, Travel, Contracts with Other Libraries, Professional Contract Services, Membership Dues, Rental, Repair & Maintenance of Office Equipment, Snow Removal, Protective Service, Programs, Maintenance & Custodial Supplies, Repairs to Buildings & Buildings Equipment, Insurance, Rental of Equipment, Utilities, Computer Software & Services	\$1,780,920	\$1,848,720
OTHER EXPENSES Debt Service for Bond Issue	\$989,688	\$985,483
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$300,000	\$300,000
Proposed Budget	\$12,593,808	\$12,961,403
Less Anticipated Revenues	\$125,000	\$170,000
Less Appropriated Fund Balance	\$300,000	\$300,000
Less Appropriated Debt Service Reserve	\$130,000	\$65,000
Total Tax Appropriation	\$12,038,808	\$12,426,403

It is anticipated that the library tax rate will increase by \$.70 per \$100 of assessed valuation. This would amount to \$1.75 per month based on \$3,000 assessed valuation. The Library Director will be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the budget. Please contact her at 631.585.9393 x200 or feinbergsandra@mcpl.lib.ny.us.

ANNUAL MESSAGE... *continued*

Our library staff – among the best anywhere – has received some additional kudos in recent months. We congratulate Director Sandra Feinberg, who will receive the Charlie Robinson Award from the American Library Association at its annual meeting in Washington, DC in June. This leadership award honors a public library director for being a risk-taker, an innovator and an agent for change. At Middle Country we pride ourselves on originality and are so pleased that Mrs. Feinberg has earned this special recognition. The Library also received the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility and was a top scorer in last fall's Long Island Business News "Best Places to Work" competition.

This issue of our newsletter contains information on the proposed 2007/2008 budget. We are pleased that we are able to continue to offer the best of library service for a modest increase of 3.2%.

MCPL gives us so many reasons to be proud. Please plan to join us on April 21st as we celebrate our first 50 years. After all, none of this could have happened without *your* support.

LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE AND TRUSTEE ELECTION

**Tuesday, April 10, 2007
9:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.**

**at the Centereach Building
101 Eastwood Blvd., Centereach, NY**

In order to vote you must be:

- a citizen of the United States
 - 18 years of age or older
 - registered to vote*
 - a resident of Middle Country School District #11 for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- * You are registered if you have voted in a general, school, or library election within the last four years. If you have not, you may register on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 between 2:00 and 9:00 P.M. at the Centereach Building.

Absentee ballot applications are available at the Circulation Desk.

MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CENTEREACH

101 Eastwood Boulevard • Centereach, NY 11720-2745
(631) 585-9393

SELDEN

575 Middle Country Road • Selden, NY 11784-2566
(631) 585-9393

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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BOOK SALE

Friday, April 27th • 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.
Saturday, April 28th • 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE

Saturday, August 4th • 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Don't miss the bargains! Support the Friends!

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 21, 2007
10:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Continuous showings of the film *Beyond Books – Middle Country Public Library*, an historical timeline art exhibit *From Two Storefronts to a National Model*, plus performances, demonstrations, magicians, food, crafts and more!

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

Thursday, May 17, 2007
3:00 – 6:00 P.M.

More than 25 area museums participate each year in this exhibit showcasing the wealth of experiences that museums have to offer. Among the exhibitors are: Sweetbriar Nature Center, Museum of Natural Science, Suffolk County Farm, Long Island Children's Museum and the Long Island Museum of Art, History and Carriages. All are welcome.

Visit our website at
www.mcpl.lib.ny.us

THE MUSEUM CORNER

April–September

**Museum Corner Retrospective:
20 Years of Memories**

DID YOU KNOW...? YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE!

On Saturday, January 20th the Library initiated its latest technological advance: online program registration. Now you can quickly and easily register for programs from the comfort of your home. Look for the link on the Library's homepage: www.mcpl.lib.ny.us.



LOBBY DISPLAYS

April

Library's 50th Anniversary

May

Mini Watercolors

June

Artwork of India

FINE FORGIVENESS DAY

In honor of National Library Week, no fines will be charged for materials returned on Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

This is a one-day only amnesty.

HOURS OF SERVICE

CENTEREACH & SELDEN

Monday-Friday 9:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.
Saturday 9:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
(Sept. – May)

The Library will be closed the following days:

New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and Sundays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Emergency closings are broadcast on WBLI (106.1 FM) and Channel 12 News.