



OF THE EASTERN MONROE PUBLIC LIBRARY

My First Sale!

By Sandy Eckard

As a new member of the Friends' Board, I was counting down to my first Book Sale. I have always been a book collector, so I've spent many a day in my home state of Maryland sorting through flea markets, yard sales, and of course, bookstores to find treasures that would be special finds. I still feel a bit new to the Poconos, but becoming a Friend of the Eastern Monroe Public Library seemed a wonderful way for me to expand my horizons while also nurturing my love of books.

What to expect at my first Book Sale? I wasn't sure! At meetings, I heard updates about the sorting of books and the packing of boxes. When the first day of the sale finally arrived, I was impressed by the organization of the event, the efficiency of all the volunteers – from greeters to cashiers – and the enthusiasm of the community members who came to support the library. Each day was filled with fun! Some of the time I sorted and restacked books, and some of the time I worked at check-out. I remained impressed with the number of friendly faces and the



Book Sale workers Sandy Eckard and Courtney Swett

Volunteers Honored

Santa's Workshop elves could not have been more productive than our 40 volunteer book sorters who labored on the Hughes Library mezzanine each Tuesday from September through May, sorting through all of the donated books. It is estimated that they sorted over 75,000 books during the 2,737 hours they volunteered.

The Friends recently honored those who volunteered over 100 hours this past year. These energetic and dedicated individuals are Vertie Knapp, Pat Reinert, Valerie Adam, Jackie Brown, Anita Berg, Loretta LaBianca and Don Manza. Their many hours of work were invaluable to the success of the book sale.

enthusiastic book lovers who wanted to chat with me about their finds. Memories that will stick with me: laughing with one shopper who had too many heavy bags and had to drag them to the check-out, helping a woman with a broken arm load her treasures in the car, and playing detective to help a determined reader find a specific Phillipa Gregory novel.

As a reading specialist and a teacher, I know how much I value literacy. But through working with the Friends and being part of the Book Sale, I am happy to share my love of reading with others, whether it's simply stacking books on a table so that they can find new homes or chatting about one of my favorite books with a friendly shopper. My first Book Sale was a wonderful experience, and I am already looking forward to next year!

Dr. Sandra Eckard, a new member of the Friends of EMPL Board, is an Associate Professor of English at East Stroudsburg University and an avid book lover, especially science fiction, horror, and old-fashioned romances.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Give and take – take and give ... that about sums up our annual used book sale. You give us your older, newer, loved, disliked, hardcover, paperback, silly, erudite, classic and mundane books. We sort, price, box, stack, store, unpack, display and sell them to members of our community. Then we give back the money we make to our precious library so it can get new lights, carpets, furniture, computers, book drops, people counters and bookmobiles. Isn't that a remarkable thing?!

It truly is remarkable because all of this entails the hard work of hundreds of volunteers who accept donations of about 75,000 items and efficiently turn them into our much awaited annual sale. Unless people have helped out before or during one of our sales they may not realize how much organizing and behind the scenes work goes on to ensure our success. (Those are the people who ask, "Why don't you do this twice a year?")

Every year after our sale we discuss suggestions on ways to improve our sale the next year. Although all the Friends' board members help with the work, Pat

Reinert, the committee chair, does an amazing job and especially deserves our accolades. There are many who assist us before, during and after the sale with critical tasks. We thank everyone – from those who donate their books, to our faithful sorters, cashiers, floor workers and general laborers, and of course, the shoppers. We're counting on you again for next year's sale.

Each year I'm the person who organizes refreshments for the volunteers, many of whom work an entire day at the sale. The generosity of our community businesses never fails to impress me. This year we were given donations from Edible Arrangements, Subway (North Ninth Street), Panera Bread, Target, BJ's, Weis, Shop Rite, Giant, Wal-Mart and ESSA. I hope you'll support these businesses as they supported our effort to keep our volunteers energized.

Please think about joining us as we prepare for next year's sale. We have a job you can help with. Remember, it's all about give and take!

— Martha Linne

IN CELEBRATION OF POETRY

On April 8, young poets and their proud families gathered to hear the students read their poems aloud and to participate in Geri Saunders' group session to discover ordinary objects with new insights. With the help of the Friends' Cultural Committee, Geri put together a poetry event and contest for grades 4, 5 and 6. Judging by ESU Education Students was based on style, creativity, sensory images, use of language and sound devices, with points for grammar and spelling.

Every entrant received an ornate certificate with their name elegantly scripted (thanks to Joan Groff for the beautiful calligraphy), while the winners also took home gift certificates for Borders Bookstore and had their poems framed and hung at the Pocono Arts Council in the Hall of Poetry (thanks to Don Manza for the printing, framing and hanging). Delicious cookies and ice-cream punch rounded out the evening.

We've included here Lily Ellen McHugh's first place poem "Chapter Two" for your enjoyment. — Noël Ruessmann

CHAPTER TWO

Almost there

So close

Getting tired

Sleepy too

Stay awake till chapter two

Three more pages

Getting closer

Keep on reading

Still trying

Line to line

Page to page

Chapter one is almost done

Chapter two here I come

— Lily Ellen McHugh, Grade 4

From the Director:

Thank you FRIENDS Book Sale Committee, Volunteers and Board for your incredible dedication and hours of hard work which resulted in a most successful 2011 sale! Board and staff join me in a collective bow and high five, if I may. Now it's time to enjoy your personal reading and overdue relaxation. Join the **Summer Reading Programs**. There are three sections, children, teens and adults. Perhaps a little family competition would be fun. Register online or stop by an EMPL library for help.

For those inclined toward digital access to information, EMPL has a collection of e-books accessible from the website at www.monroepl.org. Look for the e-book tab and explore the collection of over 23,000 titles on ebrary. Children can read online using the Tumblebooks program. If you are considering language study, the new service available to you is Rocket Languages. There are 11

Languages. There are 11 languages available, including signing.

Thanks to FRIENDS support, the new non-English language sharing collection is open. Light reading is available in a number of languages, including Japanese, Russian, Polish, German and Spanish. The collection is on the second floor of Hughes outside the local history room. Donations are welcome to help the collection grow. Borrowing is on the honor system; a library card is not required.

The Board of Trustees is investigating options toward improvements to the heating and cooling system at Hughes. There are two units out of service now (out of the 11 on the roof) and some date from the pre-library days of the building.

Look for the Bookmobile at Smithfield Township Park and Stroud Regional Camps this summer in



in addition to regular community and day care stops. Call library staff for schedule information, or check the website.

Hope to see you at:

- **Monroe County Book Expo**, Hughes Library, July 23, 10am-4pm
- **Stroudfest**, downtown Stroudsburg, September 3, 11am-6pm

Very best wishes for a safe, happy summer and ... Think Library!

— Barbara Keiser



Liztech design to benefit Friends

We are thrilled to present a Sneak Peak of our upcoming Liztech fundraising pin! Some of you may have already fallen in love with our pin by seeing the sample pin at our Annual June Book Sale.

We hope to have the pins available for you to purchase in the fall. Everyone knows how great Liztech pins are, so now you'll have a chance to support your great community Library and own a fabulous new pin. Watch for more information coming soon. ■

*News from the
Friends of the
Eastern Monroe
Public Library*

Summer 2011

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Another Successful Book Sale

By Pat Reinert

If you were fortunate enough to make it to our 26th Annual Book Sale in June, I'm sure you were truly amazed at the amount and selection of books that were available for sale this year. And I hope that you were able to find some treasures for your reading pleasure.

This year's sale was even better than the last. Estimated gross receipts from this annual event were over \$35,000. Because of your generosity in either donating used books during the year, or purchasing books at the sale, the Friends can continue to lend support to the three libraries of Eastern Monroe County.

The number of community volunteers who spent nine months collecting, sorting, pricing, and boxing the books, along with those who helped set up the community room and tent, cashiered and restocked books during the sale was astounding. It truly was a community affair.

Need shelf space for all of those new book sale purchases? Then mark your calendars for September 15th, when we will begin accepting donations for our 2012 sale. Donations can be dropped off at the Hughes Library circulation desk in Stroudsburg during normal business hours. Only good condition used books, audio tapes CDs, videos, DVDs, puzzles and games will be accepted. No encyclopedias, textbooks, or magazines please! What a great way to go "green" and help the environment by donating your unwanted reading material. ■



☯ Light Spirits ☯

by Betsy Jackson

In April, I taught a writing workshop as a benefit for the Friends of the Library. *Taught* isn't quite right. *Shared some thoughts on writing* sounds better. I shared. We wrote. Some people read aloud. We listened. Because of a large post in the middle of the room, I moved around, *like a tennis player*, attempting to have eye contact with everyone. This, I realized, was impossible. It was a surprisingly large group. And though I really wanted to hear everyone read, even a snippet of their writing, we would've needed a slumber party for that to happen.

There was Hu (without the gh) in his suit and bow tie. Iretha with an I, not an A, in her black and white dress. Larry. Mike. Denise. Yvonne. Donna. Mary and her daughter, Lisa. Tom and Rosemary – to name a few.

“Do you ever get stuck, frozen with your pen hovering over the page? What do you do about that?” Dale asked. “Write *I don't know what to write, I don't know what to write* until something pops up. Keep writing. You'll get un-frozen,” I said.

A month later I sat at my kitchen table and wrote forty-five handwritten notes to the workshop attendees. Later, I asked my daughter, “Do you think people care? I mean, I love writing notes, but do you think it matters? Am I crazy?”

“Mom. They're personal. That matters,” Claire said.

I'd received some thoughtful emails about the evening. One person wrote, *you are a light spirit. you lifted mine. thanks*. But I had no expectation of hearing back from anyone via snail mail until I found a letter in my mailbox from a man I'll call Arthur. The first thing that struck me was his handwriting – *a flourish of cursive*.

I tore open the envelope. Nestled inside were two small sheets of paper that fit in the palm of my hand. The first page was about the workshop, how he'd enjoyed it but was used to much smaller groups. *Me too*. I read on, *hungry*, the truest word for how I was feeling, to hear more. On page two, his writing dropped down into the personal ...

Memories are another thing. I rarely share those experiences with anyone but my wife – as some of those occasions in my life have been heart-wrenching and on

The Cultural Corner

Thanks to one and all for your support of our productions. During the first half of this year, we have been hugely successful with the presentation of these events: *Writer's Workshop, Poetry Month Celebration, Water Color Evening for Adults* and *Wine Tasting at Cherry Valley Vineyards*.

The Committee will take a respite for the lazy months of summer. Despite this hiatus, we are planning the rest of this year's happenings.

Save the date: Sunday October 23 at 1:00 pm

A very special one man's performance featuring a dramatic reading of *Sherlock Holmes and The Speckled Band* with renowned entertainer Neill Hartley. Stay tuned for more details and for more programs in the fall.

Please address suggestions for programs to: Friends of the Eastern Monroe Public Library, Attn: Cultural Committee 1002 North Ninth Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. Please keep in mind that we are working with a very small budget. Looking forward to seeing you at harvest-time.

— Rikki Brodman

occasion can be highly-emotionally filled and at times I've had to stop to keep myself from crying, but somehow, someway, there is always something inside of me that tells me to carry on – and put it down on paper.

This is the healing piece, the oft-times heart-wrenching, yet heart-opening aspect of writing; the act of seeing what lives inside us, what we love, what we fear, what has its talons in us. When we *carry on – and put it down on paper*, we stumble upon connection, a lightness, a homecoming. It's all so tender, this being alive. And writing is so vulnerable, even if it never sees the light of day. Thank you, Arthur, for sharing *that something inside of you*. And thanks to the writers who came out to sit under the bright lights to scratch on paper in community. I am deeply grateful.

You are light spirits. You lifted mine.

~ Betsy Jackson loves to speak to groups about writing, creativity and the health benefits of day-dreaming. Meet her at the Book Expo on July 23 at the library. Join her for a free event at Borders on August 3 – register at Borders. Read her daily blog, This Being Alive at www.scratchingonpaper.blogspot. Drop her a line at scratchingonpaper@verizon.net. She'll write back!

MEET YOUR STAFF

by Noël Ruessmann

On August 22 of this year, Jackie Nawroki will celebrate 10 years of service to the Library. A great book is Jackie's delight but a flawed book is potential venting material for a conversationally riveting dissection during her Monday Night Book Club. Part of the team that chooses the Staff Picks for the Library, Jackie is an entertaining source for your next favorite author – particularly for thrillers and suspense (ask her about the Nelson DeMille connection) – with a bias for anything that has a soulful dog.



With her own children, Nicole and Daniel, no longer living at home, Hyway (black Lab) and Godiva (chocolate Lab, 8 years old going on 4), the hyperactive welcoming delegation, provide domestic drama and a cheerful replacement decibel level. Reading in a quiet spot by the lake, looking up occasionally to watch her two Labs doing their synchronized swimming, is invariably Jackie's at-home plan.

Jackie's father's family name, name, Bellacosa, brings to mind the Italian good-wishes expression "Tante belle cose!" ("Many beautiful things!"). All four of her grandparents emigrated from the same remote village in Italy – Bitetto (near Bari) – and met in Brooklyn, and Jackie had a blessed upbringing with two strong, warm, handsome Nanans. Inheriting her maternal Nana's genes for great Italian cooking, Jackie's cuisine recreates the recipes she learned at an early age, watching her Nana's big generous hands used as cup measures. When Jackie's massive Christmas cookie production is in operation, a still unbroken family tradition, her beloved passed relations are with her in the fragrant kitchen, still chattering away.

Lacking (or wishing to revisit) the guidance of two Italian nanans? Jackie offers this conciliatory literary substitute, *Don't Sing at the Table: Life Lessons from my Grandmothers* by Adriana Trigiani.

Congratulations, Jackie, and Thank You! ■

Wish List Update

By Nancy Pullo

This year the Friends of EMPL were able to fill two additional "Wish List" improvements for the library. A sophisticated, automated People Counter has been installed at the front door, which tallies how many people enter and leave the library each day. The information collected helps with staffing and management decisions and gives door counts which are needed for state reports. The numbers also help the library staff determine whether special programs held at the library in the evenings increase overall usage. From the data collected during our June Book Sale, Barbara was able to give us a pretty accurate count of how many attended the sale each day, which will be most helpful as we plan for next year's sale.

If you have walked through the gallery recently, you have probably noticed how the improved lighting showcases the wonderful local artwork displayed along the hallway. The new lighting system is another gift from the Friends. Not only does it show the art to much better advantage, but it is also more cost effective for the library as the bulbs can be changed by the staff instead of a professional electrician as was the case with the old system. The Pocono Arts Council schedules the gallery artwork; if any local artists are interested in having their work displayed, they should contact the Arts Council.

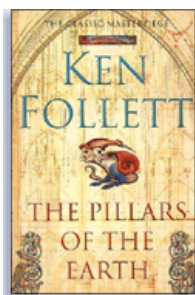
After such a successful Book Sale this year, we look forward to granting more "wishes" to improve our libraries in the coming year.

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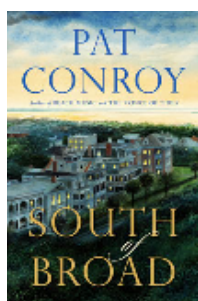
Have You Seen Our STAFF PICKS?

by Jessica Serrano Groller, Circulation Manager

Below are some truly beloved titles that you may have seen chosen in book groups and bestseller lists, and are now featured as library staff picks. Find out why today. Check out a library copy for yourself. Once again special thanks to library staffers, Jackie and Ursula, for taking the time to pull these recommended titles. Someone here on our staff enjoyed a title below and here's hoping you will too.



Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett. Paperback published by Signet June 29, 2010. **About:** "A story of passion and idealism, which describes a group of men and women in the Middle Ages whose destinies are fatefully linked with the building of a cathedral." **To Find:** Library Call Number "F FOL"



South of Broad by Pat Conroy. Paperback reprinted by Dial Press May 4, 2010. **About:** "Leopold Bloom King, our narrator, is the son of an amiable, loving father who teaches science at the local high school. His mother, an ex-nun, is the high school principal and a well-known Joyce scholar. After Leo's older brother commits suicide at the age of

thirteen, the family struggles with the shattering effects of his death. Eventually he becomes part of a tightly knit group of high school seniors that includes friends Sheba and Trevor Poe, glamorous twins with an alcoholic mother and a prison-escapee father; hardscrabble mountain runaways Niles and Starla Whitehead; socialite Molly Huger and her boyfriend, Chadworth Rutledge X; and an ever-widening circle whose liaisons will ripple across two decades—from 1960s counterculture through the dawn of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s." **What Staff Said:** "Epic... small town life, families and generations intertwined... Great." — Jackie N. **To Find:** Library Call Number "F CON"



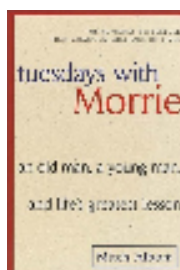
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Paperback reprint by Harper June 9, 2009. **About:** "Evaluating his life on the eve of his death, a typical canine Enzo considers the sacrifices his master, Denny Swift, has made in his pursuit of becoming a professional race car driver, and the dog's own efforts to preserve the Swift family." **What Staff Said:** "It is

narrated by the dog... I am a sucker for anything with a dog." — Jackie N. **To Find:** Library Call Number "F STE"



The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom. Hardcover published by Hyperion September 23, 2003. **About:** "Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he

tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his 'meaningless' life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: 'Why was I here?'" **To Find:** Library Call Number "F ALB"



Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. Paperback published by Broadway October 8, 2002. **About:** "Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice

to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger? Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live. This book is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world." **What Staff Said:** "I sobbed. The author's relationship with Morrie is just amazing." — Jackie N. **To Find:** Library Call Number "920 ALB"

