

Winter 2007

Editors: Rita Werner and Tom Wetjen

Message from the President

I hope your holidays were joyful and full of peace and happiness. Best wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year.

This past year has seen many wonderful events for our library. The Children's Room has been refurbished by a grant from kind donors. It has been transformed into a learning wonderland for our children. In addition, the rest of the library has been rearranged and made more accessible to customers.

The **Friends of the Richmond Hill Library** are planning several programs to take place at the library. More news about these events will be provided in our periodic newsletter or flyers distributed closer to the time of the event. Please be on the lookout for these items. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events.

The **Friends of the Library** is an organization dedicated to assist our library to remain an asset to the people of our community. We work with the Library Manager to identify needs and requirements and sponsor special programs. The Friends then provide support to realize some of these requests. Some requests are for programs that enrich the cultural climate of our community. Other requests are for books or equipment. Our goal is to supplement the materials and support already provided by the Central Library.

As a new year starts, we ask current members to renew their membership as a Friend and those not currently members to consider joining the **Friends of the Richmond Hill Library**. Annual dues are \$5 for basic membership and \$25 for sustaining membership. We will be sending reminder notices for dues shortly. You can return your dues to the Library by mail or in person. We thank you for your continuing support.

Carolyn Moss



JACOB RIIS Award Created

President Carolyn Moss is pleased to announce that the **Friends of the Richmond Hill Library** will begin honoring persons or organizations that have made significant and exemplary contributions to the Richmond Hill/Kew Gardens communities in the areas of education, literacy, the arts and social reform. The award will be named after one of Richmond Hill's most eminent residents, Jacob Riis. Nominations for this Award can be made by any individual or organization between February 1 and June 15, 2007 and sent to the Friends of the Richmond Hill Library, c/o Richmond Hill Library, 118-14 Hillside Avenue, Richmond Hill NY 11418. Candidates can be either individuals or organizations. Each nomination should be accompanied by a description of the candidate's contribution and how it has impacted the community. All nominations will be evaluated by the Friends of Richmond Hill Library Board. The award will be presented at a special event during the Fall of 2007. Nomination forms will be available at Library.



SCIENCE REGENTS EXAM HELP TO BE OFFERED IN SPRING

The **Friends of the Richmond Hill Library** is sponsoring a series of late Spring workshops to help high school students prepare for the **2007 NYS Regents Examinations in Physics and Chemistry**. The workshops are FREE and advance registration is required. The workshops will start sometime in the Spring. Enrollment will be limited so be sure to look for further announcements or leave your name and contact information at the Library Reference desk.



The Words & Music of Christmas

The Friends of the Richmond Hill Library sponsored the "An Evening of Holiday Readings and Music" by the Sacred Music Chorale of Richmond Hill in the Library auditorium on Monday evening December 4th. The program was conducted by the Reverend Robert Sonnenberg and accompanied by pianist Mary Bopp. Literary excerpts read by the Rev. Sonnenberg and Mrs. Gwen Sonnenberg were drawn from Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales," "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, "The Little Guest" by Margery Williams Bianco, "The Tree that Didn't get Trimmed" by Christopher Morley and J.B. Philip's "The Dangers of Advent." The Chorale sang traditional and contemporary musical selections between readings. Audience and performers had an opportunity to mingle and chat during the following reception. The SMC is Richmond Hill's only resident choral performing arts organization. ~ Phil Skabeikis

Upcoming Community Events

Thursday, February 15, at 6:30PM

Slide Show: Jamaica Wildlife Preserve

Created and presented by Marie Laurence
Location: Richmond Hill Library Auditorium



Thursday, April 19, at 6:30PM



Musical Program by Gennaro Felosa Kravitz

Location: Richmond Hill Library Auditorium
(Following this program, the Friends of the Richmond Hill Library will conduct its Annual Meeting with the election of Officers.)

May ~ Four Thursdays ~ from 6:30PM to 8:00PM

Regents Review in Physics or Chemistry for High School Students

Program will be conducted by Marian Skabeikis
Sponsored by the Friends of the Richmond Hill Library
Location: Richmond Hill Library Auditorium



Meet our New Assistant Manager: *Leah Goldschmitt*

Richmond Hill Library's new Assistant Manager, Leah Goldschmitt is a real home town girl. Born in Flushing, she graduated from Queens College with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Her work as a page in the Mitchell Linden branch of the Library inspired her to pursue a Master's Degree in Library Science. Prior to coming to Richmond Hill, Leah worked at the Corona, Sunnyside, and McGoldrich (Flushing) libraries. Asked what she liked best about her position at the Richmond Hill Branch, she replied "The excellent staff!" Her favorite interests and pastimes? The New York Mets (of course) and listening to popular music. We're lucky to have the learned and very likable Leah Goldschmitt with us.



Book Discussion Group



Friend of the Library, Joanne Bassin began the Fall season with a lively discussion about *I Know This Much is True* by Wally Lamb. The Group kept the cool autumn warm with discussions on *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden (October), *Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (November), and *Disgrace* by J. M. Coetzee (December). Our next gathering will be on January 25, between 3 and 4 PM, with a review on *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende.

The Friends of the Richmond Hill Library donated \$500 for the purchase of children's books for the newly renovated Children's Room.

New Children's Room Reopens

Excerpt from a Library press release on December 5

RICHMOND HILL, NY, December 5, 2006 – A celebration of the new **Children's Room** of Queens Library at Richmond Hill took place yesterday afternoon, as it officially re-opened with a ribbon-cutting and plaque unveiling ceremony, following extensive renovation and redecoration begun September 13. The renovations were funded through a generous grant by **Ann Flowers** and the **White Flowers Foundation** that was noted on the plaque on the inside entry to the refurbished room. Improvements include new carpeting, lighting, furniture, computers and a beautiful hand-painted mural depicting scenes from the natural world.

Leading the celebration were the donors, **Ann Flowers** and her son, **J. Christopher Flowers** accompanied by his daughter **Rebecca**; three-time Grammy Award-winner **Tom Chapin**; Magician **Tony Corrao**; **Alan Fishman**, President and Chairman of the Independence Community Foundation; **Marilyn Gelber**, Executive Director of the Independence Community Foundation; Queens Library Director **Thomas W. Galante** and Queens Library Foundation Executive Director **Diana Chapin**; other community leaders.

Library Director Thomas W. Galante noted, "Public library service in Richmond Hill blossomed through private philanthropy. Ann Flowers and the White Flowers Foundation have carried that legacy into the next century with their generous gift to the educational and cultural enrichment of children in this community." Added Ms. Flowers, "I was a happy customer of Queens Library 70 years ago as a child. Queens Library taught me a love of reading which has lasted all my life, resulting in a career as a children's librarian. I am delighted to help pass this gift on to new generations of children."

It's All Happening AT THE NEW CHILDREN'S ROOM

Right: Award winning children's song writer and singer Tom Chapin



Left to right, above: Library Foundation Executive Director Diana Chapin; Library Director Tom Galante; Benefactors Ann Flowers and J. Christopher Flowers



Above: Magician Tony Corrao



And about the Mural...

Clearly, one of the most beautiful additions to our new Children's Room is the spectacular mural extending around all four walls. Its scenes depict colorful features of nature including running deer, birds, flowers, butterflies and caterpillars in metamorphosis. It is the work of **Elisheva Biernoff** and **Jennifer Smith**. Elisheva and Jennifer met at the Slade School of Art University College in London, England. Upon returning to the States, they formed a company called **decoradar**. Their artwork has helped to make our new Children's Room a truly special place. Its magic will embrace the children who visit the Library for many years to come.



Friends of the Richmond Hill Library (FRHL) Membership Form

Please fill out the membership form below and make your check or money order payable to **Queens Library**.

Be sure to include on the memo portion of your check "**Richmond Hill Library**". Your canceled check is your receipt.

Mail your printed form to:

The Friends of the Richmond Hill Library
118-14 Hillside Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Please enroll me as a member of the Friends of Richmond Hill Library. Enclosed is my tax deductible one-year membership dues of \$25.00 for Supporting Membership.

Please enroll me as a member of the Friends of Richmond Hill Library. Enclosed is my tax deductible one-year membership dues of \$5.00 for Basic Membership.

I would like to help in the following areas:

Programs/Project_____, Advocacy_____, Newsletter_____, Fund-raising_____, Publicity_____. Serve on the Executive Board_____.

Name_____

Address_____

City:_____

State:_____ ZipCode:_____

E-Mail:_____

Please make your checks payable to:
Queens Library
