Pipe organs, silly string, the Supreme Court, and more

You could have learned a few things at Snow Library this fall. You could have taken a class on the Supreme Court, or become an expert on Broadway composers and lyricists of the 20th century. You could have met an author, attended a poetry reading, or discussed a novel with the First Tuesday Book Club. You could have borrowed our circulating telescope. You could have learned how to stack tiny wooden animals in a tippy tower without knocking any of them over. (It’s a clever game called “Animal Upon Animal,” and you can play it at Game Day every third Saturday.)

You could even have danced in a cloud of silly string. It’s not always so serious at Snow Library, especially when the Toe Jam Puppet Band is performing for Halloween and the Crane Room is filled with ninjas, mermaids, rainbow-vampire-bunnies and butterfly-fairy-queens, all clamoring for the bubble machine or trying to snatch candy out of the air. Everyone got in the spirit that day, even a local fisherman-dad who was summoned from the audience and dressed in a hula skirt to help out with a skit—thanks, dad!

The Celebrate Our Waters festival in late September brought the “Sailing Swain” family of Harwich to the library to talk about their six-month voyage from the Cape to the Bahamas in 2017 and early 2018. Audience members were impressed by the poise and knowledge of the younger Swains—Lucy, Jessie and Stanley—who led the presentation and showed samples of the plastic debris they trawled from the waters for the environmental nonprofit 5 Gyres.

The Friends of Snow Library’s latest Lifetime Learning session offered 25 courses on everything from bird identification to the activity of the U.S. Supreme Court. More than 1,400 people signed up for the classes, which were held from September through November.

Author talks, a poetry reading by Judith Partelow and a lecture on “The Lost Music Around the Stacks...Page 2
Winter Highlights...Page 3
Kids’ Stuff...Page 4

Artist Bob Dibble shows his paintings and multi-media pieces in the Crane Gallery.

Spirits were high at the Toe Jam Puppet Band’s Halloween show on Oct. 27.
Around the stacks

Come on in where it’s cozy. The library is all decked out for the holidays, with poinsettia garlands festooning the bookshelves, baskets of greenery here and there, and a Christmas tree twinkling by the grandfather clock—thank you to the Friends of Snow Library’s crack decorating team, Sandra Rhodes and Sieglinde Hughes, for adding the festive touches. Another colorful sight is the gingerbread village on display at the entrance to the Harry Snow Reading Room. This sweet scene was crafted entirely from confectionery by preschoolers at the Learning Garden, and its theme this year is “The Nutcracker” (check out the gum-drop mice with licorice-lace tails).

We can’t promise a marshmallow rooftop, but we can aspire to more meeting space, an improved children’s area that’s logically placed relative to other areas in the library, and additional room for adult patrons to gather informally or even enjoy a cup of coffee. These are some of the potential features of a new library building, the planning of which is being led by our Facilities Advisory Committee, with guidance from library consultant Mary Braney and architect Stephen Hale. It’s early in the process, and the committee has yet to vote on a draft building program, but profitable discussion has taken place at a series of meetings over the past few months, and money will be earmarked in the town’s FY’20 Capital Improvement Plan for a design plan.

A video surveillance camera—a first, for this library—is in the process of being installed in the Marion Crane Gallery. Art work is continually on display in the gallery, and the theft of a painting last summer caused library staff as well as members of the Marion Crane Gallery Committee to consider the additional security measure. A sign will be posted once the installation is complete.

The first phase of a grant-funded project in the craft area on the lower level is nearing completion. Master carpenter Seth Pearson finished painting the floors, walls, cupboards and trim in early December, in preparation for the arrival of new tables, chairs and storage cabinets. Once the furnishings are in place, we’ll be ready to launch Snow Studio, an arts and craft-making space. The second phase of the project begins in January with a series of activities and arts-related programs to be held continuously in the space. (See page 3 for more info).
Winter concert series starts soon

The 11th annual Rowena Myers Winter Music Series brings a different performer to the library every Saturday in January and February. All concerts are in the Craine Gallery and begin at 2 p.m., except for the Jan. 26 show which starts at 3 p.m.

Dan Kennedy launches the series on Jan. 5 with a concert of contemporary instrumental piano music. He’s followed by Kareem Sanjaghi and band, playing jazz, swing and standards from the Great American Songbook on Jan. 12. On Jan. 19, the Valerie Sullivan Trio performs bluesy jazz, both classic and contemporary, and on Jan. 26 Marc Berger adds his bluegrass and Americana sound to the mix.

Next up are saxophonist-flutist Bruce Abbott and 8-string-guitarist Fred Fried playing jazz-infused favorites on Feb. 2; Dan Sullivan’s smooth jazz on Feb. 9; and Ken Silvia’s soulful classics, R&B and original compositions on Feb. 16. The Jazzical Cats wrap up the series on Feb. 23 with a classic mix of jazz through the ages.

Snow Cinema returns

Beginning Dec. 26 and continuing through February, a movie will be screened in the Craine Gallery every Wednesday at 2 p.m. “Christopher Robin,” starring Ewan McGregor, will be shown first, followed by “Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again” on Jan. 2 and “Crazy Rich Asians” on Jan. 9. Admission is free.

On Jan. 16, a concert of French café music by singer-accordionist Pavia accompanies a screening of the biopic “Colette,” starring Keira Knightley. The concert starts at 1 p.m. and includes refreshments (baguettes, cheese, fruit, and tea or café au lait). You’ll think you’ve been transported to the Left Bank by the time the movie starts at 2 p.m.

Other films in the Wednesday series include “Juliet, Naked,” “The Wife” and “A Star is Born.” Check the library’s Facebook page or ask at the circulation desk for a schedule. Free popcorn served with each film.

Arts & crafts studio open house

All are invited to celebrate the launch of Snow Studio, the library’s new art and craft-making space on the lower level, at an open house from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12. There will be refreshments, activities, opportunities to meet some of the artists and craftsmen who will be participating, and information on upcoming programs in the studio. The project is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners.
Kids’ Stuff!

**Story Hour**
Come to the children’s room at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday for songs, stories and crafts. For newborns to five-year-olds.

**Family flick**
The Disney film “Christopher Robin,” part live action, part CGI animation, with Ewan MacGregor in the title role, kicks off the library’s free movie series on Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 2 p.m. in the Craine Room. Free popcorn included.

**Vinny’s Shadow Puppets**
Join us during school vacation week for some high-energy, interactive family entertainment when Mr. Vinny, a member of the popular Toe Jam Puppet Band, presents his Shadow Puppet Show at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 27. In the Craine Room. Free.

**Wee Play**
An afternoon playgroup with Lucy, sponsored by the Cape Cod Children’s Place, will be held Mondays beginning Jan. 7 in the Craine Room. Drop by with your toddler between 12:15 and 1:45 p.m. A fun way to meet other families. Siblings welcome.

**Tales to Tails**
Children are invited to read...to dogs! The Companion Animal Program leads this family event designed to improve literacy at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19. Sit on the floor and read out loud to a furry friend who won’t judge, won’t correct, listens patiently and loves the company of children. In the Craine Room.

**Make a Castle**
Our annual Build-a-Castle craft will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21. Participants use boxes, egg cartons, tubes, crinkly packaging materials and other recycled cardboard to make whimsical constructions. Children should be accompanied by an adult. In the Craine Room.

...And more!

**Baby’s First Year** is held at 10:30 a.m. to noon on Mondays. **Move and Groove** with D.J. Aqua at 10:30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday of the month. **Game Day** with Matt Donle of Wicked Fun Games is held from 1 to 4 p.m. on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

(Cont’d from page 1)

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