Focus on Teens; Early Literacy

A Teen Advisory Board (TAB) — the brainchild of Darren Miguez, who became head of the Youth Services Department in August — will debut at the library soon. “Since arriving here, I have wanted to prioritize my time on two areas in particular: teen services and early literacy,” Miguez says.

TAB members will be teenagers interested in planning library events for teens. Miguez says that TAB members will help pick books and other items for the teen audience, and will “take up self-directed leadership roles in library clubs and programs.”

In the literacy area, the department has developed a code to help parents and kids identify the difficulty levels in Early Reader books. “Our next project,” Miguez notes, “is to implement ‘1000 Books to Read Before Kindergarten’ to encourage parents to read to their children and [at the same time] to develop their own reading skills.”

Next summer, Youth Services plans to launch the library’s first summer reading program. It will both encourage reading and help to prevent the loss of new reading skills that often occurs when school is out, Miguez explains.

Interested patrons are invited to e-mail Darren Miguez at dmiguez@lmxac.org.

Socrates Café Comes to Library

Third Wednesdays, 7-8:15 pm

What is the meaning of life? Why do I exist at all? Why is there evil in the world? If you have ever asked these questions, Socrates Café is for you.

Socrates Café, a gathering of people who meet to discuss the BIG questions, is coming to the Plainsboro Public Library! On Wednesday, January 20, at 7 pm, the group — open to adults and high school students — will hold its first meeting. For an hour and a half, participants will discuss their ideas of meaning and existence. No registration necessary, just come!

As the Greek philosopher Socrates once said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” At Socrates Cafés around the country, life is well worth living — and participants have fun, as well! For more information, call Reference at 609-275-2898.

Upcoming Events

Therapy for Pelvic Health
Tuesday, January 5, 1-2 pm

Becky Keller and Iram Fatima Shah, physical therapists on the medical staff of Princeton HealthCare System, will discuss causes, symptoms, and therapy for pelvic dysfunction.

Blood Drive
Tuesday, January 12, 1-7 pm

Healthy Eating and Weight Loss
Saturday, January 16, 1-3 pm

Dr. Clifford Hochberg, health coach and chiropractor, will discuss fad diets and simple strategies for weight loss and healthy eating. Call 609-275-2898 to register.

Chinese New Year Celebration
Friday, February 12, 4-7 pm

Chinese brush painting and calligraphy; Chinese knotting and crafts; Food Show sponsored by Asian Food Markets; and Chinese music and dance.

Black History Month
performance, “Titans of Song”
Saturday, February 20, 2 pm

“Follow the Drinking Gourd,” — pianist Diane Goldsmith and singers Ivan Woods and Shannon Hunt (above) — will perform a tribute to African-American singers Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson. The group’s name comes from a song used to guide slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.
Ongoing Programs

**English as a Second Language**
Every Monday, 7-8:30 pm
Free weekly conversation class. Perfect for those who know their grammar, and want to use it.

**Geek Desk**
Mon.-Thurs., 6-8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm
Call ahead to confirm availability. Free help with high-tech gadgets.

**Plainsboro Artists’ Group**
First Mondays, 6:30 pm
Adult artists meet to exchange ideas and hold friendly critiques.

**Library Book Club**
Second Wednesdays, 7-8:15 pm

**Plainsboro Writers’ Group**
Last Mondays, 6:30 pm
Both published and unpublished authors share works in progress. Visitors welcome.

**T’ai Chi**
Every Saturday, 10 am-12 noon
Free classes: 10 am, beginners; 11 am, intermediate.

**Astrological Society of Princeton**
Second Sundays, 2-4:30 pm
Discussion of astrological topics of interest. All are welcome.

**Art Gallery**

See website monthly for reception dates.

**December:** “Art Served Up Trenton Style”
December 5 - January 6
An exhibition of works from the Trenton Artists Workshop Association (TAWA) and the SAGE Coalition.

**January:** Elaine Rosenberg and Nancy Scott, “Narratives”
January 9 - 27
Collage and Mixed Media

**February:** Randy Yang, “Simplicity is Beauty”
January 30 - February 24
Chinese calligraphy with reclaimed materials from nature.

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**The Staff of the Plainsboro Public Library** gives a huge shout-out to the Plainsboro Public Library Foundation Board and the many corporations and individuals who supported the Mayor’s Cup ‘Links to Library’ golf benefit on Sept.21!

Sponsored by the Plainsboro Public Library Foundation, the golf benefit provided the library with funds for its diverse summer arts and crafts programs, and its culminating Festival of the Arts, on September 19.

The library especially thanks the major donors, but wants to emphasize that every gift – from a dollar to thousands of dollars – plays a role in the library’s well-being: Princeton Forrestal Village; Ivy Realty; Winning Touch Tennis; Van-Note Harvey Associates; Structuretone; CME Associates; Beacon Princeton Forrestal; Stantec; Karen Kennedy, V.J. Scozzari & Son; Dolores T. Corona; McManimon Scotland & Baumann; Sharbell.

Residents who would like to work together to sustain and grow the library for many generations to come should contact the library director at 609-275-2899, or email plainsborolibraryvolunteers@gmail.com.

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**Monthly Benefit Book Sales**
Saturdays & Sundays
10 am - 4 pm
December 19 - 20
January 30 - 31
February 27 - 28

**Free Tax Assistance Available**
Expert tax help will be available at the library on Mondays and Fridays, from 10am- 3pm (last appointment is at 2:15), from February 5 through mid-April. Call 609-275-2897 in January to make an appointment with one of the AARP tax aides, or register in person at the Circulation Desk.

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**Need Tutoring?** Students from WW-P HSN Tutoring Society are here to help other students Mon.—Thurs., 6-8 pm. Available on drop-in basis. (Not on school holidays/closings.)
Also check out Tutor.com, through our online databases.