



# Gray Public Library

5 Hancock Street  
Gray, Maine 04039

MAY 2008

[www.gray.lib.me.us](http://www.gray.lib.me.us)

## LIBRARY NOTES FROM MARIE

For the most part the snow has melted and spring is blossoming. Thanks to Ed. Milose and Richard from Buildings and Grounds for putting the benches out onto the patio for us all to enjoy. Also thanks goes to Bobby Clark for planting the pretty pansies in the planters. Bobbie has also brought in an orchid brought for the circulation desk as well has cut flowers from her garden. Bobbie volunteers many hours of her time keeping the library looking welcoming as she takes care of all the library's plants.

With the change in the seasons, Kathy and Brooke are working hard, preparing the summer reading programs. This years themes are "Catch the Reading Bug!" for the younger kids and "Metamorphosis at Your Library" for the older group. They are planning some fun activities with terrific prize incentives to keep the kids reading through the summer. This program is a great way to help kids keep their grades up when they return to school in the fall as well as being fun. Check out both Kathy's Kid's Corner and Brooke's column for more information.

Town meeting will be held on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I hope many of you can make it. There will also be a picnic afterward with fun activities. As well as the dollar amount for the town's next fiscal year budget being decided on at the meeting, a decision will be made with regards to the town leasing/owning the Walker Tire building as the village fire station. Fire Chief Rick Plummer has made a presentation about this and the library has three copies at the library that are available to check out. If you have any questions with regards to this move, please ask to borrow a copy.

Some new books you might want to take a look at this month are: The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch; Change of Heart in large print by Jodi Picoult; Hold Tight in large print by Harlan Coben, Gardening with Kids; and Bobby Flay's Grill it by Bobby Flay.

~ Marie Morey

### Children's Calendar Corner

All children are welcome. Parents, friends and families, please supervise your children)

Tuesday: Preschool Story Time -10:00 am

Wednesday: Preschool Story Time 10:00 am

Friday: Toddler Time 10:00 am

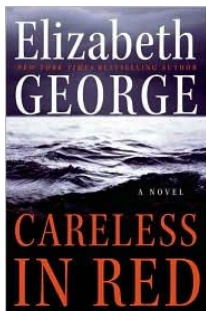
Craft time is held every other week

### LIBRARY HOURS

#### Library Hours

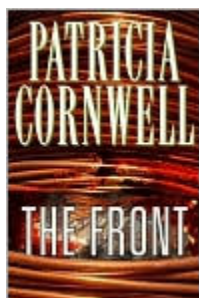
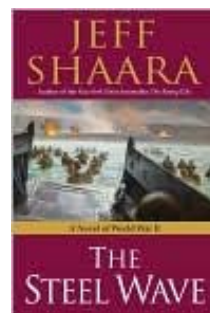
Sunday and Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9-8
Wednesday	9-8
Thursday	9-6
Friday	9-5
Saturday	9-3

New & Upcoming Releases



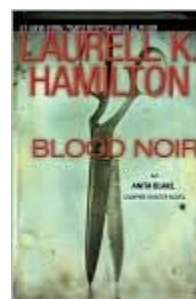
Careless In Red by Elizabeth George  
May 6th

The Steel Wave: A Novel of World War II  
By Jeff Shaara  
May 13th



The Front by Patricia Cornwell  
May 20th

Blood Noir by Laurell K. Hamilton  
May 27th



## Kids Corner – May 2008

I thought that this month we would look at some of the new releases that have come out over the last few weeks.

**Here's a Little Poem: a Very First Book of Poetry—Jane Yolen and Andrew Peters** is a collection of 60 poems that are both familiar or new to our youngest readers. The art of Polly Dunbar makes this a book to both read and look at.

### **The Bearskinner: a Tale from the Brothers Grimm –Laura Amy Schlitz**

A greedy young man makes a deal with the devil by agreeing to wear a bear's skin for 7 years. The illustrations are dark, brown tones that convey the ominous, but ultimately uplifting message in this retelling. Ms. Schlitz is also the author of this year's Newbery award: **Good Masters! Sweet Ladies: Voices from a Medieval Village.**

For our youngest readers we have **Hickory Dickory Dock—Keith Baker**. Take the standard Mother Goose rhyme, add animals that wander in and out of the story as the clock strikes 1 thro 12. Baker's large, bright illustrations make this book "readable" to those who are not ready for the written word yet. Another choice is: **1 2 3: A Child's First Counting Book—Alison Jay** Large, full page illustrations take the reader on a counting spree through the fairy tales. We see 1 girl waking, 2 wings soaring and so on. Each number is in both number and word form and every other item on the page represents that number. It is fun to identify the various tales and try to find Mother Goose on each page. For the dinosaur lover— **Dino-Pets** by Maine's own **Lynn Plourde** and **Elise Broach's When Dinosaurs Came With Everything.**

For those of you have been following the adventures of Petra Andalee (who loves words and looks at words as symbols), Calder Pillay (who looks at the world with a mathematical eye), and Tommy Segovia who is a lover and collector of all things old) in **Chasing Vermeer**, and **The Wright 3**) the next adventure by Blue Balliett is the **Calder Game**. If you have not tried this series you must. Balliett combines math, art and literature within a mystery. In this adventure Calder and his dad are off to England and Calder disappears while trying to figure out how a sculpture by the famous artist Alexander Calder. This is a series not to be missed!

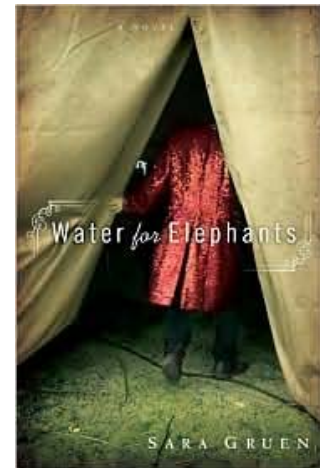
Other good reads are :**London Calling— Jonathan Bloor** (the London Blitz) , **Green Glass Sea— Ellen Klages** (the making of the atom bomb) , **Kipling's Choice— Geert Spillebeen** ( the death of Rudyard Kipling's son John at 18 at the Battle of Loos during World War I), **Pirates Eat Porridge— Christopher Morgan**( funny and zany - a bit like Pippy Longstocking and the Cat in The Hat), **Being Teddy Roosevelt—Claudia Mills**, its biography time in the fourth grade and each child draws the name of a famous person from a hat. After researching said person and giving a report all the "famous people" are invited to a tea. Riley O'Rourke learns more than he imagined when he chooses Teddy Roosevelt. Maine's **Sarah Thomson** has written **The Dragon's Egg**. Mella, a dragonkeeper of small domesticated animals discovers the egg of a wild dragon. She promises its dying parent she will bring it to the far-away breeding grounds. This is an adventurous tale and a 2008 Lupine winner.

The library has the 2008—2009 Maine State Book Award Reading list available for your summer reading enjoyment.  
~Kathy George

## ***Book Talk***

***by Jane Kidder***

One of the books I read last month is ***Water for Elephants*** by Sara Gruen. This novel has been on best-seller lists for almost 2 years, and is now available in paperback.



It's a great read—good story, well-crafted, and just the right mixture of suspense and romance to make one want to just sit down and read it all the way through.

The main character, Jacob Jankowski, jumps onto a train during the Great Depression in 1932, and ends up traveling with a second-rate circus for the next few months. Put in charge of the circus menagerie because of his veterinary background, he becomes involved with the animals as well as the performers and other workers who keep the circus going. It's a tawdry and violent existence for all involved. Through the use of several clever literary devices and good historical research, Gruen makes Jacob's story both believable and fantastic.

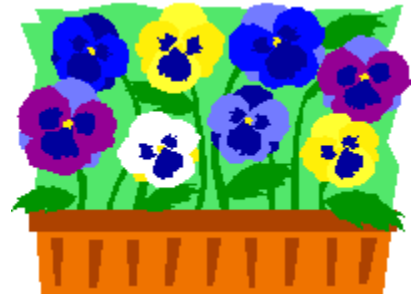
If you haven't read this book, I recommend it. It is a good book for discussion if your book group is looking for titles. The library has recently acquired a hardback edition (New Fiction /Gruen) and it's also available in print and on audio CD from other Minerva libraries.

For more information about the book, check out the author's website:

<http://www.saragruen.com/water.html>

## Month of May Holidays

The warm weather is here at last and don't we deserve it after this past winter. This also signals the start of the summer holidays.



**1st, May Day** ~ The first holiday being May Day. The month of May is the time to celebrate renewal of life. It is called Beltane by the Celts, and Floralia by the Romans. The May-pole (representing the earth center) is the most familiar symbol of May festivities. In ancient time, a dance weaving cords/ribbons around the pole attempting to direct Nature back in order.

**5th, Cinco de Mayo** ~ This is a day of freedom for Mexico. On this day the 4,000 Mexican soldiers defeated the French, sent by Emperor Napoleon III, and traitor Mexican army of 8,000 in Puebla Mexico, in 1862. Union forces were rushed to the Texas/Mexican border, under General Sheridan, with weapons and ammunition for the Mexicans to expel the French army. American soldiers involved were discharged with their uniforms and rifles if they promised to join the Mexican Army to fight the French.

**11th, Mother's Day** ~ In the U.S., this holiday was first inspired by Julia Ward Howe, after the Civil War. Howe herself was inspired by Appalachian homemaker Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis. Jarvis attempted to improve sanitation through what she called "Mothers Friendship Day". She organized women throughout the Civil War for better conditions and after the war helped reconcile Union & Confederate neighbors. Anna Jarvis, Ann Marie's daughter, was the one who finally succeeded in introducing Mother's Day as we celebrate it today. The first Mother's Day was observed on May 10th, 1908 and in 1914, a Presidential proclamation declared the 2nd Sunday of May to be observed as Mother's Day.

**17th, Armed Forces Day** ~ President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense.

**30th, Memorial Day (Observed 26th)** ~ Originally called Decoration Day, this is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971, to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays).

~Darcel DeVou

# May Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 <b>No Story Time</b>	3 Town Meeting at Newbegin 9am
4	5	6 Story Time 10:00am Knitting Group 1:00pm	7 Story Time 10:00am	8	9 Toddler Time 10:00am	10
11	12	13 Story Time 10:00am Knitting Group 1:00pm	14 <b>No Story Time</b>	15	16 Toddler Time 10:00am	17 YA Book Group 1:00pm
18	19	20 Story Time 10:00am Knitting Group 1:00pm	21 Story Time 10:00am	22	23 Toddler Time 10:00am	24
25	26	27 Story Time 10:00am Knitting Group 1:00pm	28 Story Time 10:00am	29	30 Toddler Time 10:00am	31

## Young Adult Reading

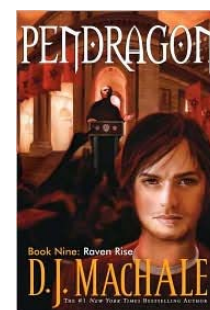


In April, the Young Adult Book Club met and discussed the books that each person had read. The topic or theme of the month was "read whatever you would like to". The books discussed were: *City of Bones* (Mortal Instruments series book one), by Cassandra Clare; *City of Ashes* (Mortal Instruments series book two), by Cassandra Clare; *Jurassic Park*, by Michael Crichton; *Dark Wing* by Walter H. Hunt; *A Dog Called Kitty*, by Bill Wallace; and *Lobster Land* by Susan Carlton. We played a game of Apples to Apples and picked the genre for May, which will be fantasy.



Summer Reading is coming fast upon us, registration will be the week of June 24th- 27th. This year's theme for the Young Adult program is Metamorphosis. Programs for the young adults will include: henna tattoos, yoga workshop, bug origami, reverse tie dying, just to name a few. Some topics will look at changing your outlook on life- inwardly and outwardly. While other topics will touch upon changing times and technology. Keep an eye out at the library for more updates on the summer reading program.

Some new releases for young adults are: *The Battle of the Labyrinth*, by Rick Riordan, book four in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series released on May 6th; *Little Brother*, by Cory Doctorow; *Calder Game*, by Blue Balliett; and *Raven Rise*, by D.J. Machale, #9 in the Pendragon series released on May 20th.



Check out the series "Seven Deadly Sins" by Robin Wasserman. This series has been widely popular in the past couple of months. The books are: *Lust*, *Envy*, *Pride*, *Wrath*, *Sloth*, *Gluttony*, and *Greed*.

~Brooke Palmer

## May Events



### **Young Adult Book Group**

Saturday May 17th @ 1:00PM

This month's genre: Fantasy

### **Knitting Group at the Library**

Join Sheila on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

For more information contact the library.



### **Annual Town Meeting at Newbegin**

**Saturday May 3rd**

**9:00am**

**Free child care provided by the Recreation Department (for residents of Gray attending the Annual Town Meeting) Fish printing sponsored by Gray Public Library Association**  
**Free Picnic/BBQ after meeting among other events**



**FMI: 657-2323 Dean Bennett Gray Recreation Department**