

Prospect Library News

Leave those leaves and come in to choose from some of our new titles. Just arrived are Anna Quindlen's *Rise and Shine*, Karin Slaughter's *TripTych*, Diane Palmer's *Outsider*, Marilyn French's *In the Name of Friendship*, Tess Gerritsen's *Mephisto Club*, Deven's *My Favorite Midlife Crisis Yet*, Minette Walters' *Devil's Feather*, Sandra Brown's *Richochet*, Bill Pronzini's *Crimes of Jordan Wise*, and George Pelecanos' *Night Gardener*. The library staff is always happy to have your suggestions for future purchases. You can leave us a "consideration card" at the front desk. We consider patrons' wishes as much as we can, keeping in mind whether or not your suggestions would be appropriate for our collection.

Our Tuesday morning reading and crafts program for children ages three to five is full, but we have another session forming in January. There is still plenty of room in our seasonal crafts session for other children, which will be taking place after school from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The sessions will take place on Tuesday afternoons before Halloween, before Thanksgiving, before Christmas, before Valentine's Day and before Easter. You can call or stop by the Prospect Library to sign up for these programs.

It is important to note that the Prospect Library will be closed on Monday, October 9 in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

The work of Rita Caldwell's students at Cheshire's Artspace will be held over this month. The artwork will be on display in the Community Room. Rita teaches colored pencil techniques at Artspace, 1220 Waterbury Road in Cheshire. She has won two awards from the Colored Pencil Society of America (www.cpsa.org). The artists on display at the Prospect Library range from beginners to students who have continued with colored pencil for four years. Come and take a look at these delightful works.

Knights of Columbus Plans Dinner Dance

Third Annual Dinner Dance Set for October 13

The Knights of Columbus Rev. James F. O'Dea Council #13459 will be sponsoring their 3rd Annual Dinner and Dance on Friday, October 13. The event will be held at Addona's Banquet Hall, Rt. 69, Prospect from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. The per person cost of \$45 will include dinner, wine, beer and/or soda. Music will be provided. Advance ticket sales are required in order to provide an exact head count and food orders. To reserve your tickets, contact George at 560-0158.

4th Annual Business & Family Fun Fest Set for November 11

Prospect Chamber Event

The Prospect Chamber of Commerce will hold its 4th Business and Family Fun Fest on November 11, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Community School and is looking for area businesses to participate. This expo will help your business gain exposure, create mailing lists, showcase your products and/or services and meet new customers. In addition to the exhibition, there will be demonstrations, food and free antique appraisals. The Police Department will hold their Kid Care Program.

Reserve your place today, as vendor spaces are limited. Please call the Prospect Chamber of Commerce at 758-6640 if you would like more information or to participate.

Opals on Display at The Shed Gallery

By Mary Conseur

Jewelry maker John Kaufman of Prospect said, "I came by my profession naturally. I was a real rock hound as a kid." As a teenager, Kaufman met an Australian opal miner and decided he wanted to go to Australia with him.

Kaufman's parents objected because Australia was still a wild frontier and their son would have to ward off scorpions and carry a gun to discourage claim jumpers at the mine.

Though he didn't make it to Australia, Kaufman always dreamed of making opal jewelry. After he retired from his job as a research chemist, he decided to make his dream become reality. He learned that synthetic opals were less expensive and more durable than natural ones, and a lot less trouble to acquire.

He explained, "Natural opals contain water, so, after a period of years, they dry out and the color fades. Lab opals are made with resin as a lubricant; they never dry out." Lab opals also have more "fire," or brilliance, than natural opals, and may change color with the weather. "I decided to name my company Blazing Carat because of the brilliant colors of the opals," he said.

Kaufman has a workshop in his home, where he cuts and polishes the stones and designs the settings for rings and pendants for men and women. He sells his jewelry at The Shed in Prospect, the Hotchkiss House Museum, as well as through his website at www.blazingcarat.com

Volunteers Needed for Tax Counseling for the Elderly

The Connecticut AARP Tax-Aide (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) program is seeking volunteers to provide one-on-one help in the preparation of income tax returns. Computer literate volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly is a free, confidential service run by volunteers who prepare Federal and Connecticut tax returns. The service is offered to low and middle income people of all ages, with special attention to those 60 and older.

Volunteers do not have to be an AARP member, nor do they need to be retired. Training will start in November. Interested persons should email ctvoltaxaide@juno.com Provide your name, address and telephone number when emailing.

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