

Many programs of interest to teens at the library

By Donna K. Drago

Six months after beginning her position as the children's librarian at the Jamestown library, Rowena Burke maintains her opinion of the island's youth: "They're still really polite," she said.

Politeness is obviously paying off for island youngsters because Burke, in association with Melissa Minto of the Teen Center and Maureen McGuirl, a junior high teacher at the Jamestown school, has come up with an array of events and activities to keep teens and kids busy and learning throughout the fall.

Burke said that she is reviving the library's Anime Club for Kids who enjoy watching and discussing the animated Japanese action-adventure films that have become so popular in the U.S. The films have inspired an interest in martial arts among the fan base, "and now they want kung fu," Burke said.

"That's good, because it means they want to learn new things," she added.

Burke, along with Minto, has also come up with a craft club that will meet regularly to make items for personal use or to sell at the



Children's librarian Rowena Burke says there are lots of activities for the island's teens this fall at the library. Photo by Donna Drago

library craft show, scheduled for December.

The first session, held two weeks ago, had 11 teens making jewelry items, Burke said.

Attendance numbers for youth

events has been very good, and some 90 children came to see a magician this summer, 80 showed up for singer Greg Cooney, and some 55 children recently attended a storytelling event with Carolyn Martino, Burke noted.

"I'm pretty pleased" with the numbers, she said.

Also well attended were the annual summer reading events, called "Read Up a Storm," the children's librarian pointed out. Some 150 island students took part in the programs, she said.

Burke said that local teens

have repeated over and over that they want to see more movies, so she and Minto have developed a teen movie night each month at which a movie along with pizza and other light refreshments will be served.

"They get to pick the movie," Burke said about the teens.

Programs that tie into school programs include one on weather forecasting, which included a lecture on hurricane forecasting at the library that followed the required summer reading by grade 8 students on the Great Hurricane of '38, all organized by teacher McGuirl, Burke said.

Coming in the near future is a program on forensic science, given by an employee of the Rhode Island Crime Lab. The date is Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. and the lecture is suitable for teens and adults interested in the subject.

Rhode

"This all ties in with the crime shows, like CSI, that they love," Burke said about the crime drama's popularity among teens.

Also looming ahead is a Halloween program on bats, Burke said, noting that it will be in early November.

All programs for children, teens, and adults are posted in the library calendar on the Web site at www.jamestownri.com/library.

Library to hold first 'Food for Fines' days

The Trustees of the Jamestown Philomenian Library have authorized the library's first "Food for Fines" Days from Sunday, Sept. 25 to Sunday, Oct. 9.

Bring in an unopened can of food and the staff at the desk will waive any fines you may currently have. For those who bring in a long-lost library item with their canned goods, the staff will waive the fines and fees on those items also. They would, however, still expect payment for lost books, videos, audios or DVDs, but they will waive the processing fee during this time.

Library patrons are encouraged to scour their bookshelves and video collections for library materials they may have overlooked. Other usual hiding places for library materials include under the front seat of the car and between the bed and the wall of any children's room.

The canned goods will be donated to the St. Mark Food Pantry. For more information, call the library at 423-7280.

School lunch prices announced

The North Kingstown School Department has announced the prices for school meals in Jamestown and North Kingstown for the school year.

Lunch costs \$2.50 for high school students and \$1.85 for elementary students. A reduced price lunch, at 40 cents is available to eligible students. Breakfast costs \$1 per student of any age and reduced price breakfast costs 30 cents. Milk costs 50 cents per carton.

Eligibility for reduced-price lunch is determined according to federal guidelines. A family of three can earn up to \$20,917 and a family of four can earn up to \$25,155 per year to qualify for free lunch. Reduced price lunches are available to families of three earning up to \$29,767 and families of four earning up to \$35,798. To learn the eligibility requirements for larger families, call the schools.

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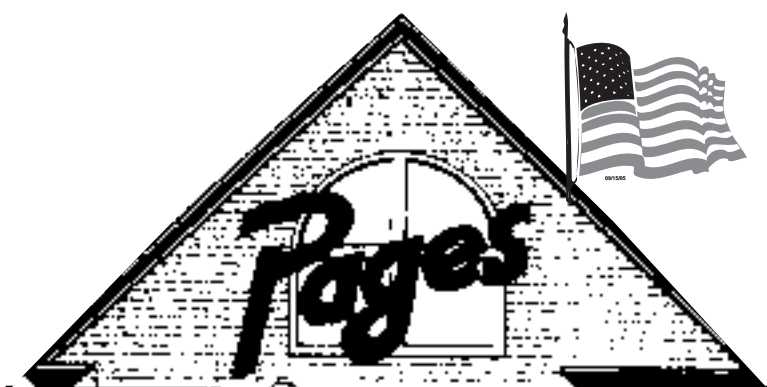
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