



**Building the way to
lifelong learning.**
1902 - 2010

Easton Area Public Library
515 Church Street
Easton, PA 18042
(610) 258-2917

Palmer Branch
610-258-7492

South Side Branch
610-258-3121

For more information about
the Library and its programs,
log on to www.eastonpl.org

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515 Church Street
Easton, PA 18042

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Easton Area Public
Library & its Branches
will be **CLOSED**

Monday, January 16
Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 20
Presidents Day



EASTON IN 1798

The Marx Room now features a six foot enlargement of a 1798 image of Easton. The graphic depicts the buildings on Northampton Street west of the town square, Centre Square, and the original Court House, which stood in the square.

The engraving, the earliest known graphic depiction of Easton, was drawn by Jacob Hoffman and published in the Philadelphia Monthly Magazine in September 1798. The illustration accompanied an article about Easton by Joseph Hopkinson, who had studied law in Easton in 1791 and was a son of Declaration of Independence signer Francis Hopkinson.

Thanks to the research of local historian Richard C. Hope, we have a list of the owners of each of the buildings shown in the engraving.

The library thanks the Friends of the Library, who provided the funding to acquire the image, enlarge it, and frame it for display. When you are in the Library, visit the Marx Room to see what center city looked like 213 years ago.

EX LIBRIS

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Jennifer L. Stocker, Library Director

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTON AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY & ITS DISTRICT LIBRARIES

THE LIBRARY AGREEMENT WITH EASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT



On January 24 Library Director Jennifer Stocker will present the 2012 Library budget to the Easton Area School District (EASD) as prelude to receiving tax money already collected to support the Library. If the past holds true, some people will ask why the EASD levies such a tax. To answer that, we must go back in Library history to before the Civil War.

Founded so auspiciously in 1811 by shareholders who paid an annual fee, the Easton Public Library was in financial difficulties by its 50th anniversary. Many of the original shareholders had either moved or died. With the Civil War further impacting the fortunes of the Library, the directors turned to the Easton School District as a potential partner. The District had recently built a high school across 2nd Street from the Library and could see the advantage of having the Library available to their students.

A transfer agreement, sharing Library control and expenses, was ready by May 1863, but the Easton Library Company (ELC) decided to make one last effort to preserve the Library by selling 100 shares at \$5 each. Only 25 sold, so on July 14, 1864, the transfer took place, and the ELC transferred its insurance policy to the School Board. The agreement provided for joint use and control of the Library. Each party provided two members for a Library Committee, and the School Board agreed to contribute an amount equal to what the ELC stockholders paid annually. There were to be separate hours of operation for the ELC stockholders and the students.

By the mid-1890's, 30 years' worth of students had had access to library materials while attending Easton schools. Many desired to continue having access to books after they graduated. Coincidentally, the wealthy industrialist Andrew Carnegie had begun to fund the building of public libraries. The founder of Carnegie Steel Corporation of Pittsburgh had built his first American library in that city in 1885. His method was to build and equip a library for a city but only on condition that the local government provide a suitable building site and commit to providing sufficient tax revenue to maintain and operate the library, pay staff salaries, and purchase new materials.

In September 1895 a group of civic-minded women formed the Easton Library Association (ELA) with two goals: revitalizing the Library and opening a reading room. Just as it had been in 1811, these organizers moved ahead full speed. They began to enroll library subscribers and life members and search for a suitable location for the reading room. When one could not be found, the ELA decided to concentrate on the Library and entered into an agreement with the ELC and the Easton School District to become a partner in operating the existing Library. In 1896 the ELA replaced the ELC, which disbanded. Within a year the newly structured Library had as patrons 226 paying subscribers, including 13 life members; 305 high school and 26 normal school students; 61 teachers; and 39 stockholders. The Library averaged 50 patrons a day with 300-400 books loaned per week.

By 1900 the ELA realized that, despite all their bake sales, programs, and fundraisers, additional funding would be needed for the support, development, and maintenance of the Library in view of the excessive demands being placed upon it. The idea of levying a mill tax to establish and maintain a free library was proposed as was the possibility of approaching Carnegie for a library building. Early in 1901, the ELA applied to Carnegie for a \$50,000 grant, and the leading citizens of Easton pledged \$5000 to buy an appropriate library site. The citizens then went to the April 1901 School Board meeting, where their spokesman, H. J. Steele, made an impassioned argument for a free public library, citing examples of other progressive, forward thinking communities, like New York City, which had accepted Carnegie money and now had fine libraries that were the pride of their citizenry. As a result, the School Board approved a one-half mill tax that would support and maintain the proposed library. In July the First Reformed Church sold its cemetery on Church Street between 5th and 6th Streets to the Easton School District with the provision that the land be used in perpetuity for a library and park.

With all the pieces in place – the site, guaranteed funding from the School District, and a Carnegie grant – the women of the ELA had met their goal in six short years. The ELA transferred its interest in the Library to the School District to be part of the free public library to be supported by the dedicated tax. Ground was broken in spring of 1902, and the new Easton Public Library building was dedicated October 28, 1903.

And that is how the Easton Area School District came to own the city's Library and why it continues to honor, as it has for the last 110 years, the conditions of the Carnegie grant by collecting a tax that contributes to the operation and maintenance of your Library.

YIPPEE, YIPPITO! SKIPPYJON JONES COSTUME STORYTIME!

The Neat-o Bandito, El Skippito will be at the Easton Area Public Library & its Branches for Storytime, Pictures, and ALL KINDS OF FUN.

A very special family storytime event featuring special guest, Skippyjon Jones, the Siamese cat from the popular children's series by Judith Byron Schachner. Children will be treated to stories and a chance to visit with Skippyjon himself!

Bring your cameras and have your picture taken. Children of all ages welcome!

Three different dates & locations to choose from:

Easton Area Public Library	Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 pm
Palmer Branch	Monday, January 23 at 10:00 am
South Side Branch	Wednesday, January 25 at 10:00 am



For more information go to www.eastonpl.org - Library Events Calendar or call the Main Library - 610-258-2917 ext. 322, Palmer Branch - 610-258-7492, South Side Branch - 610-258-3121 for detailed information.

SOUTH SIDE BRANCH NEWS

Valentine Bracelet Craft - To be held Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 11:00 am for children ages 5-12. Make and take home your Valentine bracelet. The library will supply the materials. Registration is required.

Winter Preschool Storytimes will be on Wednesdays @ 10:30 am from January 18 to February 29. All children ages 3-5 years old are welcome to attend. Call to register at 610-258-3121.



Films@EAPL

Wednesday, January 11 - 7:00 pm - *Karen Cries on the Bus* - After suffering through ten loveless years of marriage, Karen leaves her macho husband and takes to the streets of Bogota in hopes of starting a new, independent life. But with the help of a young and empowered hairdresser, Karen might be able to find her way toward redemption. 2011, Spanish with English subtitles, 97 minutes, Not Rated.

Tuesday, February 7 - 7:00 pm - *Protektor* - A Czech journalist joins a Prague radio station that broadcasts Nazi propaganda in order to protect his Jewish wife. However, as the Nazi rule over Czechoslovakia calls for more and more collaboration, his relationship with his wife spirals downward. 2009, Czech with English subtitles, 98 minutes, Not Rated.

If a film showing must be canceled due to inclement weather, it will not be rescheduled. However it will be added to the Library collection and be available for viewing. For details, call the Library at 610-258-2917, ext. 307. Patrons are welcome to bring light refreshments. Free & open to all.

Easton Area Public Library - Catherine Drake Meeting Room - lower level, 515 Church St., Easton, PA

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION FOR THE LIBRARY

In the event of inclement weather, logon to ANY of the following:

Channel 69 WFMZ StormCenter - www.wfmz.com//stormcenter - Accessible at www.eastonpl.org

B104 - www.b104.com WZZO - www.wzzo.comFox 1470 - www.fox1470.com

Newstalk 790 WAEB-www.waeb.com - WAEB will also read some major local cancellations/delays on the air.



NEW ON THE EAPL WEBSITE! CYPRESS RESUME

Need help with your resume? Try our new database Cypress Resume. You can create professional resumes in minutes. Answer a few basic information questions, select the job or industry appropriate to you, and check off the skill, profile statements, and abilities that apply to your background. Cypress Resume will organize your input into a perfectly formatted resume. Check it out at www.eastonpl.org - just click on the icon for Cypress Resume.

CYPRESS RESUME CLASSES coming in January 2012.

Monday, January 23 - 2:00 pm

Tuesday, January 24 - 6:00 pm

Thursday, January 26 - 3:00 pm

Saturday, January 28 - 10:00 am

Call the Reference Desk at 610-258-2917 ext. 307 for details.

MARX ROOM ACQUIRES EASTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ARCHIVES

The archives of the League of Women Voters of the Easton Area are now available in the Marx Room. These records document the important role of this organization in the political life of the Easton area over the course of 50 years. Files include meeting minutes, newsletters, annual reports, correspondence, publications, and newspaper clippings. Also included are study files for local issues such as the formation of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center and the proposal to build the Northwood Mall. Members of the Easton League, which in 2002 merged with the Bethlehem League to form the League of Women Voters of Northampton County, donated this collection to the Library.

This significant addition enhances our ability to illustrate the role of women in Easton, and complements our holdings of archives from such women's groups as the YWCA, AAUW, the Fortnightly Club, and the Garden Club.

DISTRICT DATA FOR JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2012

MARY MEUSER MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1803 Northampton Street, Easton, PA 18042 www.meuserlib.org

- * Join Miss Natasha for Pre-School Story Time - Thursday & Friday mornings at 10:30 am. Call 610-258-3040 for details.
- * **Thank You** to everyone who supported our Christmas Wreath fundraiser!
- * In 2012, Meuser Library celebrates its 50th year of service to Wilson Borough, Williams Township, West Easton, and Glendon. Watch our website for announcements of Special Observance Events throughout the year.
- * Santa, we thank you for visiting with us on Friday, December 2 for our annual *Breakfast with Santa*.

LIBRARY BOOK GROUPS

MAIN LIBRARY - Non-Fiction Book Club

Wednesday, January 25 - 7 pm - *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent

Wednesday, February 29 - 7 pm - *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson

The Non-Fiction Book Club meets in the Marx Room of the Main Library.

All are welcome to join as we discuss these books. For details call 610-258-2917 ext 307.

PALMER BRANCH

Evening Book Group - Special Author Appearance - Tuesday, January 24 - 6 pm - Eileen Clymer Schwab will discuss her book, *Shadow of a Quarter Moon*.

Mother/Daughter Book Group - Saturday, January 28 - 2 pm - Moms and girls can read any book about Helen Keller. We are focusing on biographies for this meeting. Come to the meeting-discussion and share with us something you learned about this remarkable woman!

For details about either of these events, call the Palmer Library at 610-258-7492.

