

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

May 2008



LUMINATO AT THE LIBRARY

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James Lockyer moves for justice

Annual lecture fitting tribute to memory of June Callwood



Defender of the wrongfully convicted, lawyer James Lockyer drew an overflow crowd of 400 to Toronto Reference Library on April 25 for the second annual June Callwood Lecture.

THREE DAYS AFTER Robert Baltovich was cleared of homicide charges that he was imprisoned for in 1992, his lawyer, James Lockyer, drew an overflow crowd of 400 to Toronto Reference Library for the second annual June Callwood Lecture.

Lockyer spoke eloquently about problems with the Canadian criminal justice system that too often lead to wrongful convictions, citing four homicide cases that have been quashed by Canadian courts in the past year.

At one point, Lockyer introduced Baltovich, who was in the audience. "It was a very moving moment," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant, "and really put a human face on the horror stories Lockyer was telling us."

The event was moderated by Linden

MacIntyre, co-host of CBC's *fifth estate* and one of Canada's most distinguished broadcast journalists. Also appearing at the lecture was award-winning singer-songwriter Jon Brooks, who wrote a song especially for the event, as well as Jill Frayne, Callwood's daughter, who read a moving passage from one of her mother's inspirational speeches.

"Everyone in the audience seemed energized by the evening," concludes Bryant. "It was a very fitting tribute to the memory of June Callwood, whose sense of social justice was so acute."

Transcripts of both this year's lecture and last year's, by Mary Jo Leddy, as well as the lyrics to Jon Brooks song, are available on the library website, torontopubliclibrary.ca.

City librarian wins prestigious Urban Library Council award

Josephine Bryant's vision of amalgamation central to library's cultural and economic influence



TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY City Librarian Josephine Bryant will be awarded the 2008 Urban Libraries Council Urban Player Award for her role in successfully integrating seven distinct library systems into one and then using the integration as an opportunity for the library to play a more central role in the lives of Torontonians.

"Jo's vision of amalgamation has moved the library into the mainstream of the city's cultural life and economic promise," says library board chair Kathy Gallagher Ross.

Headquartered in Chicago, the Urban Library Council is a membership organization of North America's premier public library systems working for the past 30 years to strengthen public libraries as an essential part of urban life.

Bryant will receive her award at the end of June at the Urban Library Council annual conference in Anaheim, California.

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

LUMINATO AT THE LIBRARY

Partnership explores Toronto's rich creative resources

LUMINATO BEGAN LAST year with an exhilarating celebration of Toronto as one of the most creative cities in the world. Conceived out of our city's unique vibrancy and cultural diversity, and designed to showcase Toronto's artistic and creative core and the cultural renaissance transforming our renowned concert halls, galleries, museum collections and performing arts companies, Luminato was created to bring Toronto's light to the world, and the world's light to Toronto.

"As a cultural destination, the library strives to bring Toronto's artistic community to the people," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant.



"By partnering with Luminato, we are able to extend our free programs to a greater audience, making Toronto's literature, music, art and theatre more accessible to everyone."

The library and Luminato have similar goals with respect to fostering creativity in Toronto.

"Luminato is a celebration of the power of collective creativity," says Luminato co-chair Tony Gagliano.

"Partnering with the library makes great sense from our perspective. Both the library and Luminato offer cultural programming to everyone

in the city; we both celebrate Toronto's diversity; and we both seek to foster creative expression. And we're happy to have the library provide all of their Luminato programming for free, making it accessible to anyone with a hunger to experience Toronto's cultural wealth."

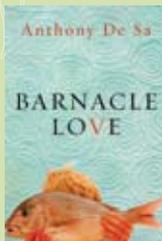
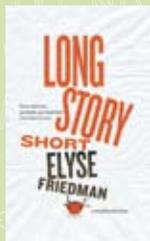
The library is partnering with Luminato to offer two exciting program series in 2008 (see below for details).

The Festival of the Short Story brings eight authors to four library branches to discuss the craft of short story writing. Meet Elyse Freedman, Anthony

De Sa, Ahmad Saidullah and others and find out what makes their work tick.

Three exciting family programs bring world-renowned talent to library branches throughout the city: Members of New York City's Mark Morris Dance Group teach families basic dance movements at Oakwood Branch; Grammy Award-winning entertainer Dan Zanes brings his stories and songs to three library branches; and puppeteers Ann and David Powell bring a pyjama shadow puppet party to three branches.

Festival of the Short Story



As part of Luminato Festival of Arts and Creativity 2008, Toronto Public Library celebrates the much-loved craft of short fiction, with eight authors and six collections of stories. From inter-

linked stories of Toronto's Portuguese community in Anthony De Sa's *Barnacle Love* to the dark and humorous tales of Elyse Freedman's *Long Story Short*, the Festival of the Short Story brings together unique combinations of Canadian writers to discuss their common craft.

With: Pasha Malla (*The Withdrawal Method*), Ahmad Saidullah (*Happiness and Other Disorders*), Sharon English (*Zero Gravity*), Caroline Adderson (*Pleased to Meet You*), and Journey Prize writers Rebecca Rosenblum and David Whitton.

These free events will be moderated by Caroline Adderson, Jane Urquhart, Russell Smith and Lynn Coady.

Family Events

The library will be showcasing Luminato performers and artists in a number of our branches throughout the city before and during the festival.

Shadow Puppetry Workshop

Storytelling and shadow puppetry pyjama party with puppeteers Ann and David Powell, featuring shadow puppets from Roseneath Theatre's *Rocket and the Queen of Dreams*.

Family Dance Workshops with the Mark Morris Dance Group



Dance at the library with members of the internationally acclaimed Mark Morris Dance Group. As part of their comprehensive Luminato Artist Residency, company members will teach families basic dance movements at selected library locations.

Storytimes with Dan Zanes



The library will also offer special storytime and family sing-a-long with Dan Zanes (2007 Grammy Award winner for best children's album). Rock star to kids and parents everywhere, this exuberant musician will encourage families to enjoy music together.

Visit the library website for dates, times and locations — torontopubliclibrary.ca. Or call Answerline at 416-393-7131.



(l-r) George Kobelak works on his surfing skills with Kipling Collegiate student Diane Lopez.

Library bridges generation gap with innovative program

JIM program brings youth and seniors together for mutual mentoring sessions

AN INNOVATIVE NEW program at the library, dubbed JIM (Joint Internet Mentoring project), is bringing youth and seniors together on an odyssey of social and technological exploration.

Supported by a grant from New Horizons for Seniors, which is offered by Human Resources and Social Development Canada to help seniors find innovative ways to play important roles in their communities, the JIM program pairs seniors and youth to mentor each other. Using the library's computer and Internet resources in sessions focusing on life skills, social networking and mutual interest research, participants not only build their technological skills, but also have an opportunity to make friends and have some fun.

"It's a joy to see the two generations get along so well", says JIM project lead Laura Arrizza. "There's a lot of good-natured banter: 'Get your hair cut!', 'Where's your coat? You'll freeze', 'Where's my senior today?' – and everyone loves it. There's so much laughter."

Many JIM project participants have never used a computer before.

"At one of the first sessions," comments Arrizza, "one participant admitted that this would be the first time she had actually ever touched a computer!"

The JIM project also gets seniors out of their homes

and into the library, providing an opportunity for social interaction.

Many of the seniors taking part in the current session come from local retirement homes, such as St. Demetrius Residence and Humbervale Residence, and welcome the chance to meet and mingle with new people. In fact, the response from seniors' support agencies, including the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre, Etobicoke Services for Seniors, and Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services, has been so enthusiastic that there is now a wait list of people wanting to join the program.

But the JIM project is also about serving the needs of youth.

"Kipling Collegiate Institute immediately recognized the potential of the JIM project to engage students positively within the community, and signed on as a supporter," says Arrizza.

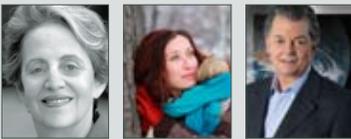
"This is definitely one of the best experiences", says Kipling Collegiate student Maimoona Shahid. "Socializing with adults, learning about their past and gaining interpersonal skills are very important to learn in life, plus helpful in the future. I would recommend my friends to try this program. It is fun and exciting, just to attend the meetings."



Challenge Your Grey Matter

The library is challenging older adults to follow their interests and intellectual curiosity with programs throughout June at library branches all over the city. This year will see the launch of the inaugural GreyMatters series, with nine programs on a broad array of topics such as Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan, the science of anti-aging, and harnessing the power of creativity in later life.

Afghanistan: Where is the Road to Kandahar Leading Canada?



Featuring **Janice Stein** (*The Unexpected War*); **Nelofer Pazira**, journalist, actor, producer, author; and moderator **Brian**

Stewart, senior correspondent for CBC's *The National*.

Creativity and the Search for Meaning in Later Life

Join Classical Pursuits founder **Ann Kirkland** and novelist **Béa Gonzalez** (*Bitter Taste of Time* and *The Mapmaker's Opera*) for a discussion on the power of creative expression in older adult lives.

Can We Live Forever?

Learn why Cambridge-educated biomedical gerontologist **Dr. Aubrey de Grey** thinks it may be only a few decades before we can postpone aging indefinitely.

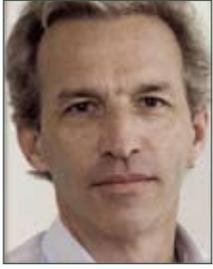
And get fit, surf the net, trace your roots, learn to tango, plan for retirement, write your memoirs, with more programs all month long at the library.

For dates, locations and other details, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/seniors.

GreyMatters

think feel act

Library Board member Matthew Church: A Profile



When Matthew Church came to Toronto in the mid '70s, he was already

a diehard library person. "My family was in the library all the time when I was a kid," says Church. "I have distinct memories of the library in Montreal when I was five or six years old. I remember pulling out piles of books and sitting on the floor surrounded by them."

Later, while attending McGill University, Church worked at Redpath Library on campus. "It was a perfect job, because I could work between classes as a runner at the reserve desk. And you got to meet almost everyone."

Church joined the Toronto Public Library board in 2004.

"I saw it as an opportunity to be involved in the city," says Church. "I'd done some work helping to make improvements in my neighbourhood in Toronto and I found it very gratifying. I was familiar with the library board because my mother had served on it and, as an editor and writer, it just seemed like the perfect fit."

"It's an exciting time to be part of the team moving the library forward," continues Church. "Being on the board allows me to help perpetuate the library as the incredibly important access point it continues to be, and to help it thrive and expand. I find it remarkable how library staff has been able to work with the board to grow and broaden the library's reach, especially considering current financial constraints."

"The library is a unique cultural institution," concludes Church, "with its free access to information, literature and culture. It has really evolved – and continues to evolve. Libraries have always been a democratizing influence, but Toronto's library is becoming more and more a crucial gateway for everyone into our information society. It is the jumping off point for all sorts of activities, from learning English to getting onto the Internet to finding a job."

A long-time magazine journalist, Church currently oversees communications at Evergreen, a not-for-profit funder and facilitator of community and school ground greening projects across the country.

Library Board Highlights

May 12, 2008

Library to review initiatives for promoting reading in Toronto

The board agreed to defer to 2009 the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award, which in the past has gone to Margaret Atwood, Kenneth Oppel, Peter Robinson and a number of other prominent writers. The award is being reviewed in connection with a number of similar initiatives designed to promote reading, and to raise the profile of the library and Canadian literature.

Policy established for providing access to community information

Displaying and distributing community information for the public supports the library in fulfilling its mission of providing residents with opportunities for full participation in the life of their community. Annually, Toronto Public Library receives more requests to display and distribute materials in its branches than can be accommodated. The new "Displaying and Distributing Information for the Public" policy, approved by the library board at the May 12 meeting, enhances transparency and accountability by providing guidance on materials acceptable for display and distribution and introduces an appeals process.

Toronto Public Library still busiest in North America

Library use statistics for 2007

confirm that, in comparison to other public library systems serving more than two million residents, Toronto Public Library continues to be the busiest library system in North America. With nearly 29 million items borrowed in 2007 and 16 million people visiting Toronto's library, numbers were down a bit from 2006, but the unprecedented number of branches closed for renovation last year is a major factor in explaining the dip in use. There were a number of notable exceptions to the decline in statistics. Circulation of paperbacks and graphic novels for teens, a group targeted in the library's strategic plan, increased more than 20 percent over 2006. The Kindergarten Outreach program, which aims to get library cards into the hands of children entering the school system, was more successful in 2007 than any other previous year with over 41,000 children (90 percent of students) contacted and 100 percent of schools in at-risk neighbourhoods reached.

Library/City partnership to engage youth

The board received for information a report about a library partnership with the city to develop a media centre for youth at the Kennedy/Eglinton Branch. The initiative will be part of the City of Toronto's ProTech Media Centre Project, which will see the development of such media centres in each of the 13 Priority Neighbourhoods.

Library Events June 2008

Seniors Month: GreyMatters June 1–30

Luminato at the Library June 6–15

Aboriginal Week June 16–21

...and more

Visit torontopubliclibrary.ca for details.

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The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 p.m., September through June at Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto. Meetings are open to the public. Board Contact: Nancy Marshall 416-393-7215.

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