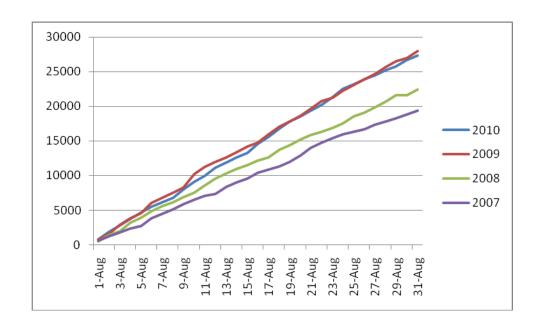
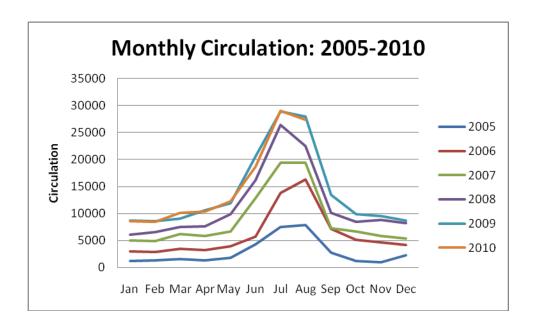
Director's Report for August 2010

August circulation (27331) decreased by 6% from July (28999), and decreased by 2% from this time last year (27955). At the end of July, the year to date circulation (125674) was .5% below last year (126270).



Circulation statistics over the past 8 months reflect a flat growth rate in comparison to 2009.





Summer reading program – Of the 121 children who signed up for our summer reading program 42 read 681 books and posted 360 book reviews. Prodigious readers and writers received gift certificates to the Paper Peddler.

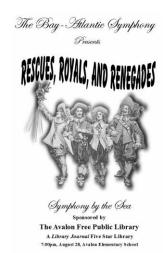
Podcasts of Children Authors – Five of the young authors of the summer's childrens writing group created podcasts of their work which are now are now available in the Virtual Exhibits section of our website (http://www.avalonfreelibrary.org/ywritersworkshop.html).

Between July 1 and August 31 the library sponsored 154 programs attended by 5000 people. There were 47 children's programs with a total attendance of 1616. 3384 people attended 107 adult programs.



Lisa Scottoline visited the library on August 18. Approximately 630 people attended the book lecture and signing. Lisa gave away 350 copies of her latest book. Although the lecture was well received, there were crowd control issues that cropped up during the signing.





From A to Z - August Music Offerings

On August 24, Gina Roche's Brazilian Jazz Quintet performed at the library for over 150 people. The following day, Paul Somers lectured about Beethoven and the works that were performed at the Bay-Atlantic Symphony concert. The final concert of Symphony By the Sea series was performed on August 28. Approximately 650 people attended the concert.



Technical problems – In August, we experience serious problems with both the Millennium Intergrated Library System (ILS) and our patron access print and time management system (SAM). We have traced some of the problems to a series of upgrades that were made earlier in the summer to both systems. A reboot after a recent powerfully apparently trigger some of the issues. Functionality has been restored to both systems, however, there are components that are not working properly. We are working with both vendors to resolve outstanding issues.

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Would-be actors learning the ropes with free workshops at Avalon library

By VINCENT JACKSON, Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, August 17, 2010



Mark Edward Lang, left, gives some advice to Rob Lemaire, of Cape May Court House, during a free acting class held at the Avalon Free Public Library.

AVALON - Bob Anderson and Elissa Campanella exchanged wedding vows 29 years ago, but for 10 minutes last Tuesday they acted like a different long-married couple - Mel and Edna Edison, the middle-aged, middle class, Upper East Side of New York City couple from Neil Simon's "The Prisoner of Second Avenue."

Their fellow acting classmates cracked up as Anderson, in character, yelled at his fictional wife and seemed more upset that his Chivas Regal scotch was stolen during a burglary of their home than the couple's new, color television.

"It's not that different than some of the arguments we have around the house," said Anderson, of Cape May.

Anderson and Campanella participated in the second of three free "Scenes and Monologues" acting classes held on Tuesdays this month at the Avalon Free Public Library. Actors Mark Edward Lang and Alison J. Murphy host the sessions. They have performed extensively with the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, as well as with theaters in New York and across the country.

Since 2008, the actors have been giving free classes at the Avalon Library. Campanella has attended every year.

"I've been an overly dramatic, theatrical person since I was born, so there has always been that interest," said Campanella, a history teacher who directs the dramas and musicals at Estell Manor Elementary School. She is also the director of her church theater group. "I saw this as an opportunity to maybe learn a bit more technique and also maybe to get some acting exercises that I could take back to both my adults and my kids."

Summertime is when teachers get their second wind, Campanella said. Classes such as this help re-energize her for the coming year.

"It's when we take classes. It's when we learn. It's when we read, so part of that is you are drawn to anything that will help you do what your job is. I was excited to be able to do this," Campanella said.

East Lynne Theater Company actors giving free acting classes is a benefit to East Lynne even though the professional equity company is not sponsoring the library event.

The library pays for the classes, but Murphy is appearing in the comedy "The Dictator" through Sept. 4 at the theater in Cape May.

The classes not only help students hone their acting skills, they also create a bond between the actor and audience, said Gayle Stahlhuth, the theater company's artistic director.

In the case of Anderson and Campanella, their familiarity with Lang and Murphy led to them obtaining season tickets for East Lynne.

The classes are open to both children and adults. Sometimes, adults intend to drop their children off at the class, but wind up sticking around themselves and participating.

Rob Lemaire, 40, attended his first acting class in 2008 with Lang and Murphy because of his then 10-year-old son.

Lemaire's son, Bobby, developed a curiosity about acting after seeing his father on stage as Duffy, the detective, in the East Lynne's 2001 production of "The Dictator."

The boy wanted to attend when Lang and Murphy did their class on Shakespeare two years ago. His father took him.

"I was going to kind of sit in the background, but I found myself getting sucked in. I liked working with other people. I had a lot of fun there. Bobby really liked it," said Lemaire, of Cape May Court House. "I think he got the bug. I think the opportunity to do an acting class really gave him the confidence to take the next step (appear on stage)."

Lang and Murphy have been acting for a number of years. A few years ago, they decided they wanted to share some of what they learned.

"In terms of the workshop in Avalon, they are particularly interesting to me because we welcome everybody essentially from teenagers and up. A lot of parents will bring a kid," said Lang, who is Murphy's husband. "We had a mother and her son and a father and his son doing scenes together. How often do you get that kind of interaction in the normal world?"

Some people sign up for the free acting classes because portraying another character and acting in front of others can be way to take a break from their own lives for a while.

Ginni Hain, a homeowner here, has been caring for an elderly parent.

Hain, the mother of a 28-year-old daughter, has been very active in community theater in her hometown of Baltimore. Her most recent time on stage was in January with a production at Morgan State University in Baltimore. She had been out of the acting environment and missed it.

"I didn't really know what to expect," Hain said. "I really, really love acting. If nothing else, this will be a wonderful oasis and distraction and time to have fun concentrating on something that I love."

Lang and Murphy were great and were prepared to have attendees jump right in do some acting and have practical fun, Hain said.

"One of the things I love about acting is that you get to step out of who you are, and you get to be somebody else, who you are not. It's a very vicarious kind of pleasure, to play against type. If you are a kind, gentle person, you get to play a neurotic, angry person. It's fun to kind of step out and be that person. I just love acting because you get to be other people, and you get challenged to see things through other people's eyes. If you really get into it, it helps you," said Hain, who has done community theater in Baltimore.

The reason to have free acting classes at the library is part of its mission to spire, inform and enrich the community, said Norman Gluckman, the library director. The cost to the library for the program is \$1,200.

"We're looking for programming that will do just that, things that people may be interested in or always wanted to try, for example, ballroom dancing. Right now, we have knitting going on in one of the rooms of the library, so there are a lot of different things that come under our programming. The library provides folks with the opportunity to try something."