



HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Wavelengths

Winter 2007

Your guide to what's happening at the library  
Sponsored by Friends of the Homer Public Library

## International Film Festival for Children begins February 17

Story by Amy Russell



The Friends of the Homer Public Library launches the second annual Homer International Film Festival for Children starting in February. The films selected for the 2007 festival are positive, educational, and wildly entertaining.

Offering a wide variety of animation, documentary, features, and

shorts, this festival begins February 17, with weekly screenings each Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Homer Theatre and each Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Homer Public Library through March 10.

Children ages 8 and up will rave about films like *Winky's Horse* from the Netherlands, *The Incomparable Miss C* from Canada (the sequel to *The Mysterious Miss C* we saw in 2006), the rockumentary *Heavy Metal Jr.* from Scotland, and more. Children ages 5-7 will adore films like *Pettson and Findus: The Tomte Machine*, a multinational collaboration, and *Peace Tree* from Canada. The unique collection of film stories from around the world will include at least two contributions from right here in Alaska. Generous support comes from the



Young children will love *Pettson and Findus*.

Quiet Place Lodge, the Homer News, the Homer Theatre, McDonald's and the Homer Tribune. With their contributions and others, tickets to each showing at the theatre will be only \$1 for kids 18 and under with an accompanying library card and \$3 for adults or kids without a card. Showings at the Homer Library are free, but seating is limited.

Please check the FHL website [www.friendshomerlibrary.org](http://www.friendshomerlibrary.org) to view the complete schedule for the 2007 Homer International Film Festival for Children. We'll see you and the kids at the movies!



*Winky's Horse* will tie the Children's Film Festival in with The Big Read for adults. (See story inside.)

# Homer wins national grant to join The Big Read

## Many local events planned



**I**t's **BIG**. It's all about reading for fun! The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with Arts Midwest and the Institute of Museum and Library Services recently awarded a grant to the Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College for the communities of Homer, Kenai and Seward to join "The Big Read," a new national reading program designed to revitalize the role of reading in American public culture.

Homer will be one of 72 communities participating in what NEA Chairman Dana Gioia likes to call a "national book club." The Homer Public Library is partnering with the Kachemak Bay Campus of

the Kenai Peninsula College, the sponsor of the Big Read on the Kenai Peninsula, as well as Pier One Theatre, the Pratt Museum, Flex High School, Kenai Public Library, Seward Public Library and KPBSD-Connections School to host a multitude of innovative events which will highlight the social side of reading a great book in and around Homer beginning in April.

In 2004, the NEA released the landmark report "Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America" documenting a dramatic decline in literary reading—among all age groups, ethnic groups, and education levels—and galvanized a national discussion.

The Big Read was developed to help reverse this trend by giving citizens in participating communities an inviting opportunity to read and discuss great books.

In Homer, The Big Read will result in fun, interactive and informative activities community wide focusing on *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. Acts of reading, performing, discussing, gaming, eating, watching and listening will highlight the book as a whole and pieces such as Asian culture and immigration which play an important part in the novel. The long list of activities will lead up to Tan's public reading on June 9 as part of KBC's 2007 Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference.

The library will host at least three events. Among them will be the showing of *Winky's Horse* at the International Film Festival for Children in February right before

Chinese New Year. *Winky's Horse* presents the story of a Chinese girl who emigrates to The Netherlands with her family and deals with issues of integration, cultural identity, and generational conflict.

HPL will also host two book discussions featuring *The Joy Luck Club*, one for teen girls in early May as part of a monthly discussion series (see box below) and the other, a book discussion group facilitated by Loraine Murphy open to the whole community in late May.

Other project partners will offer events including a screening of the film *The Joy Luck Club*, a "Community Conversation" discussion of immigration in Homer, literature and reading classes, high school curricula, and a dramatic reading of the novel. Look for more information at the Homer Public Library and around town about these Big Read events and more.

### YOUTH FOCUS 2007

Coming soon to the Homer Public Library—cool programs for Homer's young people! Look out for teen movies after school, and hands-on workshops on topics kids want, new books, DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks in the VORTEX, the library's dedicated area for young adults. Have a suggestion for a movie or another program? Tell us at [info@friendshomerlibrary.org](mailto:info@friendshomerlibrary.org) or fill out a questionnaire at the library.

# Library patrons urged to TAKE BACK YOUR LIBRARY

(This article is an edited version of one originally written for publication in the Homer News.)

The new library is a dream come true and a source of pride for many residents in our community. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of new patrons since we opened our doors to the public on September 16, 2006. This brings new challenges to the Library Staff and other library users. And we need your help.

The vast majority of patrons at the Homer library are responsible and respectful of those around them. However, in the past couple of weeks, we have had problems with a group of young people who have pushed the boundaries of appropriate library behavior and who we also suspect are engaged in criminal behavior. A beautiful display case that was purchased and custom built for the Friends of the Library was vandalized; “smoke weed” was etched in the glass and there were carvings in the birdseye maple. Signs are being ripped off the walls. Recently we discovered graffiti in pen on the leather chairs in the fireplace lounge. Adults are intimidated and don’t want to sit in the lounge or use the computers when the group is there.

This group of kids seems to have a lot of unstructured time and nowhere to go. However, library policies clearly state that library staff members cannot supervise children in the library. We are not equipped, nor is it our mission or purpose, to be a babysitting facility for any child, including teens who have worn out their welcome at all the other establishments in town.

The Library staff, Friends of the Homer Public Library, school administrators, teen support services and the local police are working together to come up with constructive ways to deal with this issue. But we need your help too. We need you to take back the library that Homer worked so hard to create. We encourage you to visit often, and especially between 3:30 and 6 p.m. on weekdays. Take notice of teenagers who seem to be loitering in a group, and instead of moving away, move closer. Help be our eyes and ears. And if a group of kids is disrupting your study or violating your computer privacy, please help us educate them about proper behavior in a library. The public library needs your help to keep it the safe and special place we all imagined it would be.

—Helen Hill, Library Director

## The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray

A novel by Chris Wooding

The Victorian city of London comes kicking back to life in this modern novel of the supernatural and the heroic. Easy to read and sure to please, Wooding’s story is filled with chillingly gothic overtones, intense action, and gritty characters.

*The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray* takes the reader straight into the dying heart of an alternate London – a city whose streets are becoming plagued with the inexplicable: night demons, werewolf-like diseases, and strange murders. Amidst this setting we find ourselves companions to the cause of young Thaniel, whose determination to thwart the demonic powers creeping over London leads him to the hauntingly beautiful Alaizabel Cray, a girl whose bizarre possession and hideous past may be the key to the city’s resurrection.

For those who may be worried about the book’s

“antiquity of language,” forget it! Wooding writes using an up-to-date style while incorporating modern glamour to a bygone age – including a reminiscently grunge look and attitudes to match.

I found this novel to be imaginative, suspenseful, and, despite the story’s several subplots, Wooding’s characters are able to fully explore the whole city, from beggar kings to psychiatrists, engaging the reader in a journey around, above, and below a world guaranteed to terrify and enthrall. Readers interested in the supernatural (or who just want an intelligent scare), should not fail to sink their fangs into this excellent escapade.

YA Book Review by Sigrid Colman



# Volunteer Spotlight



Eileen Faulkner is a regular at the Homer Public Library; you probably just haven't seen her! When Eileen isn't busy at one of the many organizations where she helps out, she is busy in the new library's work room processing all of the great books, movies, audio books and

CDs headed for the shelves and, ultimately, your home! Eileen has also spent time perfecting the many volunteer jobs at the Library. She has dusted, re-organized shelves, mended books, and many other tasks. Eileen has been a volunteer at the Homer Public Library for as long as she has lived here, over five years and we are so glad to have her! Thanks, Eileen!

## HOW TO CONTACT US:

Homer Public Library  
500 Hazel Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
<http://library.ci.homer.ak.us>  
907-235-3180

## HOURS:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday/Saturday:  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Tuesday/Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friends of the Homer Library  
500 Hazel Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.friendshomerlibrary.org](http://www.friendshomerlibrary.org)  
907-235-3180

## Library Happenings Winter 2007

**EVERY WEDNESDAY:** Preschool Story Hour @ HPL, 10 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 9:** Top Drawer submissions due @ HPL

**FEBRUARY 14:** FHL monthly board meeting @ HPL, 6 p.m. All welcome.

**FEBRUARY 17, 20, 24, 27 and MARCH 3, 6, & 10:** Second annual Homer International film Festival for Children @ the Homer Theatre and HPL. See [www.friendshomerlibrary.org](http://www.friendshomerlibrary.org) for more information.

**FEBRUARY 28:** "As You Like It"—Local Writers' Open Mic @ HPL, 7-9 p.m.

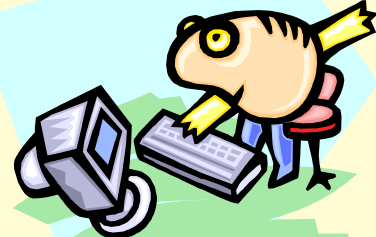
**MARCH 14:** FHL monthly board meeting @ HPL, 6 p.m. All welcome.

**MARCH 27:** For Mature Audiences Only! Beginning Internet Class for Seniors @ HPL.

**MARCH 30:** Flicks for Teens @ HPL, 4 p.m. Movies TBA.

**MARCH 31 - APRIL 1:** "My Word Against Yours" SCRABBLE™ Tournament @ Land's End Resort. Go to [www.friendshomerlibrary.org](http://www.friendshomerlibrary.org) to register.

## For mature audiences only!



Are you young at heart despite your couple of grey hairs and feeling hip in every way but in the world of computers? We've got the program for you! Look out for **Internet and E-Mail Class for Seniors** coming to the library in late March! You'll learn the tools you need to get online, surf the web, and get connected!