**THE READING ROOM AT GILMAN LIBRARY**

**ALTON## HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY -** It is well known that March 17th,St Patrick's Day, is celebrated with festivities throughout the United States, with parades, parties, and “the wearing of the green.” It is not a legal holiday here, but it is, of course, a legal national holiday in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Here are two facts that you may not know. Saint Patrick was not Irish! The Bishop Patrick, (AD 397-493), the patron saint of Ireland, was an Englishman from Severn, England. He left England to become a missionary to the predominantly Celtic Polytheistic society. Though he is credited with introducing the Christian religion to Ireland, history records that other Bishops had preceded him and there were already Celtic Christians, living in Ireland well before the time of his arrival in 432. Did you know that Ireland’s first national color was blue, not green? The shade of blue most commonly associated with St. Patrick has become known as “St. Patrick’s Blue.” Though there is not an official national color, green became associated with Ireland in the 1640’s, when their flag was designed. By the time of the rebellions against the United Kingdom in the late 1700’s, Ireland was already known as the “Emerald Isle,” and green became the symbol of Irish nationalism. You can learn more fun facts from several trivia books in our circulation, including Chase’s Calendar of Events, published by McGrawHill Education. Trivia books are good for the brain.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **BRAIN TRAINING AT THE LIBRARY -** Everyone knows that reading is good for the brain, but so are many other pleasant activities. Studies show that learning a new language, a new skill, a new craft, or a new instrument, are all challenges that improve brain function and contribute to neurological health. We have the tools and resources to help! Check out our foreign language audios, our books and DVDs on American sign language, or our books on woodworking or knitting. Music is especially healthy. Check out “This Is Your Brain On Music” by Daniel J. Levitin or “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Playing the Guitar” by Frederick M. Noad. We also have the book and 2 CD combo “It’s Never Too Late to Sing, by Heidi Peglar.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NEW BOOKS -** Come into the library and check out our newest 2022 books. We have “Fast Ice: a novel from the NUMA files” by Clive Cussler and we have three new titles from the Emma Griffin FBI mystery series by A.J. Rivers. These are volumes 15, 16, and 17, “The Girl in the Woods,” “The Girl and the Midnight Murder,” and “The Girl and the Silent Night.” We have these and more just waiting for you. You are sure to find your old and new favorites. See you at the library!  **#465** |   |

 |