

DOVER CLUB 'TOONS IN TO ANIME



Anime lover Emily Clark, 11, of Dover, holds up some of her favorite DVDs during a recent meeting of the Delaware Anime Society at the Dover Public Library.

DEL. SOCIETY MEMBERS EXPLORE ASIAN ART FORM

By Katie Kazimir
Delaware State News

DOVER — With the recent release of the movie "Speed Racer," based on the 1960s anime classic cartoon, interest in anime has never been higher. But one club based in Dover has been ahead of that interest for years.

Since 2004, the Delaware Anime Society has been meeting in Dover, first at Superior Comics and now at the Dover Public Library on South State Street.

"The first meeting was amazing because there was just oodles and oodles of people who all wanted an anime group in Dover," said Matilda Madden of Salisbury, Md., president of the society.

Anime is derived from the word "animation," and in Japan it would mean any animation in general. However here in the United States, anime generally refers to any animation made at a Japanese studio.

Sean O'Riley of Salisbury, a member of the Delaware Anime Society, would go even further with his definition.

"I would say it is anything done in that same Japanese style — whether it comes from Korea, China, France or

the United States."

According to the Delaware Anime Society Web site, the group's goal is "to unite anime and Asian culture enthusiasts in the tri-state area and for them to have fun and make lifelong friends and contacts through their shared interests."

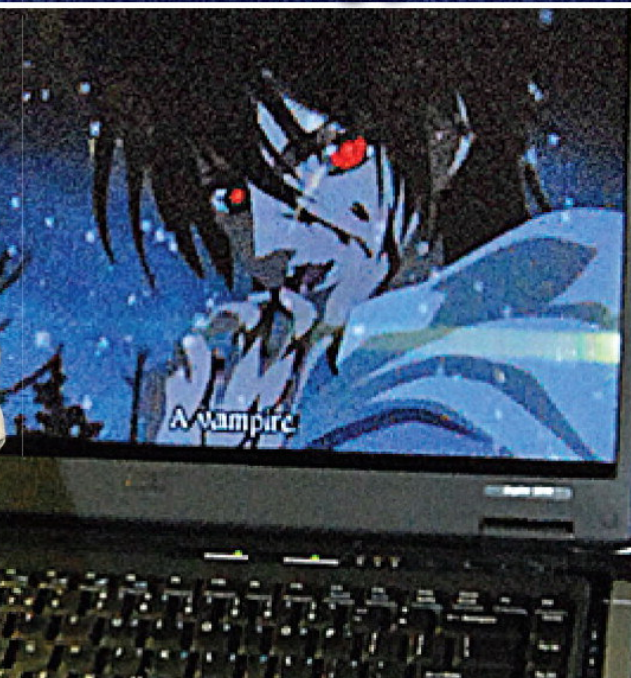
People of any age are welcome to join the group, but Ms. Madden said the general age range of members is from 13 to those in their 30s.

"It is a genre of entertainment, so it does have things spanning many different ages," she said.

The group has three chapters — the North Delaware chapter, South Delaware chapter and Southeastern Pennsylvania chapter. There is a meeting of one of the groups at least once a week, but the Dover group meets on the second Saturday of every month at the Dover Public Library for four to six hours.

"At the meetings we play anime, generally family-friendly titles, and we usually do video gaming or video game competitions," said Ms. Madden.

The anime shown changes from week to week, because there are many



Laurianne Hebel, 17, of Dover, checks out some anime on her laptop. The group meets every second Saturday at the Dover Public Library.



Dressed as anime characters, Steven Dubbs of Seaford and Matilda Madden of Salisbury, Md., play the anime-style video game "Super Mario Kart" on the Nintendo Wii video game console.

Anime

Continued From Page 15

different types of anime.

"There are as many different types of anime as there are television shows," said Mr. O'Riley. "We don't just focus on one type."

Each meeting, the group watches a couple of episodes of a series that the members previously voted on.

"We also do random picks, where members bring in things they would like to see and we vote on it at the meeting and then we just watch it," said Ms. Madden.

"A lot of times we end up talking about the show while it is going on," said Mr. O'Riley.

Mr. O'Riley said they usually discuss the story line and plot of the shows.

"I think that anime, compared to cartoons, is deeper," said Ms. Madden. "It has more three-dimensional characters you can relate to and deep plots you can become emotionally invested in."

While watching anime is an important part of the Delaware Anime Society meetings, playing video games factors in as a major part of the group as well.

"We try to have more than just anime at the meeting so we can appeal to a lot of different people as well," said Ms. Madden.

Ms. Madden said that the group likes to play a lot of multi-player games, such as "Guitar Hero," "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Mario Kart," many of which were originally created in Japan.

The group also plays anime-related titles such as "Dragon Ball Z," Ms. Madden said, but tends to stick with the non-anime style games because more players can be involved at one time.

"A lot of anime-related games don't lend themselves to be multi-player games," said Mr. O'Riley.

But video games and animated films aren't all the group is focused on. Charity work is also a major priority of the Delaware Anime Society.

"We do community service because we want to give back to the community," said Ms. Madden.

"We have donated to Toys for Tots, United Way and a charity called Child's Play, which buys toys for children in hospitals. We are also giving money to Relay for Life and Jerry's Kids."

Ms. Madden said the group raises funds for the charitable organizations by setting up donation boxes and soliciting donations online.

"We also collected cans for a can drive once," she said.

Mr. O'Riley said the Dover chapter of the Delaware Anime Society has about 200 members.



Billy Cooke, of Camden, stakes out his favorite spot by the Nintendo Game Cube video game system, playing games with Japanese-style graphics.



Dover anime fan Michele Lapinski admires the Asian art.

"Not everyone actually comes to meetings," he noted.

The majority of the members remain involved with the group via the Internet and a Yahoo group account. The society also has a Web site that is regularly updated.

And the group has more activities than just one monthly meeting.

"Aside from the meetings we also do events, like picnics, mini conventions and parties," Ms. Madden said.

Those interested in learning more about the Delaware Anime Society should check out the Web site at www.delawareanimesociety.com, or stop by the next meeting which will begin around noon on June 14 in the Adult Meeting Room at the Dover

Public Library, Ms. Madden said. "People are welcome to just come on in. We're about friendship and fun — bringing people together so we can do what we like to do."

Staff writer Katie Kazimir can be reached at 741-8229 or ckazimir@newszap.com.

newszap.com
Free Special Free Ads
Your community directory is a click away!