

FRIENDS OF THE MAPLEWOOD LIBRARY NEWS

FALL 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...

Library Director Jane Kennedy will be retiring at the end of December. During Jane's eight years in Maplewood, the Library has seen quite a few changes. At long last the Library has a new roof and many of the long-anticipated ADA upgrades have been completed – automatic front doors, an elevator, and a chairlift providing access to the non-fiction stacks. A special Teen Zone has been created. Technological advances have been put in place, such as eaudiobooks, ebooks and a new website. The recent installation of a coffee machine has fulfilled one of Jane's long-standing "wish list" items.

Thank you, Jane, for your service to Maplewood. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, stress-free retirement.

Maplewood is extremely fortunate that its Library Directors have chosen to remain in the position for many years. This consistency enables the Library to remain a vital part of the community. The Library Board of Trustees worked diligently, quickly and successfully to find a new Library Director to be in place on January 1, 2012. Sarah Lester, a Maplewood resident, was their unanimous choice. Friends look forward to working with her and welcoming her to the Maplewood Library family.

A number of programs supported by Friends are now officially launched – Nook ereaders; the Museum Passes; the Writing Lab; and the wonderful new website. Please try these new services and tell all your friends and neighbors that they are available – and funded by the Friends of the Maplewood Library!

Laura Nial, President

JOIN THE FUN AT THE BOOK SALE!

Looking for new knitting ideas? Want to learn more about the Civil War? Need advice on getting the baby to sleep? Stocking up on good reading for those long winter nights? Struggling to find new ideas for dinner? Anxious to read the *Twilight* series? There's a book for that at the Friends' sale.

You can also find lots of DVDs, videos, CDs, audiobooks to entertain the whole family. You won't leave empty handed.

Find great bargains and help Friends support our Library. See you at the sale!

Saturday, November 19 – 10 to 5
Sunday, November 20 – 11 to 5
(Bag Sale – Entry via Parking Lot)

Bernadette Albertson
Laura Nial
Co-Chairs

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JOIN FRIENDS TODAY!

FAREWELL FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since I will be retiring at the end of the year, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to be the Director of the Maplewood Memorial Library these past 8 years. The Library truly is the community center for the Township and the people of Maplewood take great pride in it. Over 1,000 people came into the Library the day after Hurricane Irene. They came to use the computers and the Wi-Fi, charge their phones, sit in air-conditioning, use the bathrooms, plug in their laptops and gather with their neighbors to ride out the after-effects of the storm. So much more goes on at the Library than just lending books. The Library Board, Staff and Friends all contribute to making the Library the great institution it is.

You may have noticed some changes in the Main Library. We have switched the reference department to the front of the building and made the reference area into a teen room. The teens can talk, play board games and relax in their own space. A café area has been created next to the circulation desk and a coffee machine is available for our patrons.

The Library's new website will be up and running soon. The website will have the new Library Logo and will be interactive with blogs and social media sights. We thank the Friends of the Library for supporting our new website financially and for making it possible.

The Library is now lending Nooks to our patrons. We are excited about offering our patrons a way to become familiar with e-book technology. The Library has a subscription to e-books and they are available through our catalog for downloading on e-book readers.

I wish the Maplewood Library all the best in the future and will miss the great people I worked with and for. I plan to become a full time library "user" starting next year!

Jane Kennedy
Library Director

"I'm of a fearsome mind to throw my arms around every living librarian who crosses my path, on behalf of the souls they never knew they saved."

-- Barbara Kingsolver, novelist

MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

This new program allows Maplewood Library patrons to visit three area museums for free! The Friends of the Maplewood Library has funded this program, which includes passes for The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Morris Museum and The Montclair Art Museum. Passes may be borrowed by adult Maplewood Library cardholders at the Main Library Circulation Desk and kept for seven days. The limit is one pass per family per month. When you check out the pass, you will sign an agreement listing the Museum Pass rules. Enjoy a day of fun at a great museum courtesy of the Friends.

Joanne Beckerich, Programming and Publicity

TECHNOLOGY

The Friends of the Maplewood Library provide vital support that helps the library keep up with technology and offer great new services. This fall sees the debut of two new services sponsored by the Friends.

At the end of October the library rolled out its new website. The library's original website was created 15 years ago by one of the librarians. In recent years the need grew for a new, modern, user-friendly website to help the public connect with the library's services both online and in the buildings. A committee of library staff developed specifications and content for a new website and then, with funding from the Friends, retained a professional web designer to create the site. The new website features a more attractive organization, better calendar of events, and livelier content. It provides a gateway to the library's many online services, including the catalog, databases, ebooks and eaudiobooks, and useful links. We are especially proud of the cool new Kids and Teens pages—be sure to take a look! And by the way—the library's bold new logo? That was sponsored by the Friends as well.

There has been a lot of buzz about ebooks this year, and the Friends are helping the library bring this new way of reading to our patrons. A grant from the Friends enabled the library to buy six Barnes & Noble Color Nook ereaders, four for the Main Library and two for Hilton Branch. The Nooks are preloaded with a selection of current fiction and nonfiction titles, and adult patrons can borrow one for two weeks. In case you're hesitant, instructions and a tutorial are included. Patrons are asked to sign an agreement of responsibility and leave a refundable deposit. You may remember that the Friends provided the original funding for the library's downloadable eaudiobooks, which can be used with iPods and other MP3 players. Those continue to be available, along with a selection of ebooks that can be downloaded to patrons' own computers, ereaders and smartphones. The Children's Department has Nooks, too, purchased with a grant from the Kiwanis Club. These are loaded with interactive stories for kids to enjoy in the library.

Barbara J. Laub, Head of Technical and Adult Services

BE A FRIEND TO THE MAPLEWOOD LIBRARY BY RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012

The Friends of the Maplewood Library are committed to raising funds to support library programs and enhance library services. Your membership dues, special gifts and tributes ensure that we can continue to fulfill our commitment. With your support, we are able to fund library programs and projects that might otherwise not take place. For example, the Friends currently fund the Children's/Teen's Summer Reading Program, which this past summer brought 2000 children and teens into the library; we contribute to book purchases; we provide funds for professional development of the library staff and for major library improvements; and we hold several book sales throughout the year, giving back to the Library with the proceeds from those sales.

In this tough economic environment, your membership in Friends is more important than ever. Please remember to renew your membership in Friends for 2012 by completing the enclosed membership form. Thank you for your support!

Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

What's happening in the Children's Department?

Our thanks to the Friends for enabling us to have one of our most successful summers ever. We had 2,000 kids and teens participate in our "One World, Many Stories" summer programs.

This fall the Children's Department is designing programs that utilize new technologies and bring new people into the library. We are grateful to the Friends for their support as we show how libraries can think outside the box.

One of our new fall programs is "Kids' Video Book Reviews." Each month we will film Maplewood kids talking about their favorite book or author. During the program we will help kids select a book, practice what they will say, and then film their review. These 60-second videos will be uploaded to our Kids' Blog on our new website. We are enlisting the help of middle school students to assist us in filming and editing the videos, making this a multi-generational project. We will be using a flip camera (an easy-to-use video camera) and a tripod that were donated by a Library Board of Trustees member.

Another new program this fall is "Books and a Snack" – a less-structured book club for kids that will provide a fun, social way to enjoy books. Each month we will feature a different theme and children will bring their favorite books in that genre to share with other kids. Our first theme is humorous stories, and children will read aloud from their favorite funny books.

"Nannies in the Know" is an exciting new program that provides early literacy training for caregivers who work with children, and teaches them how to encourage literacy.

"Teens Read to Kids" was such a success this summer that we are offering it again throughout the school year. We had a great response from the Middle School students who are eager to volunteer and read to younger children.

"Writing Lab" (another program funded by Friends) continues to grow as we work with author Ellen Dreyer on ways to improve our commitment to helping children improve their writing skills. In the Writing Lab, children have been working on school assignments and creative writing.

Jane Folger, Head of Children's Services

NOVEL DESTINATIONS – A SUCCESS!

The Adult Summer Reading Program Novel Destinations provided a variety of opportunities for participants. Of the 50 adults who enrolled in the program and received reading logs, 28 turned in their completed logs and were entered in a drawing. The grand prize was a Barnes and Noble Nook. In addition, a number of well-attended adult programs were offered during the summer – origami for beginners, Rangoli Indian craft, talks by local authors and the screening of a film by a local filmmaker. This program was administered by Joanne Beckerich (Programming and Publicity) and funded by the Friends.

BOOK REVIEWS from FRIENDS

The Spies of Warsaw by Alan Furst

Alan Furst is a master of the historical spy thriller. Not only does he provide the thrilling moments of the spy game, but also he gives you an historical perspective on the area in which his spies operate. His protagonists are pragmatic individuals, who find themselves caught up in the exigencies of war. They must think and act quickly and do whatever it takes to protect themselves, their country's spies and their country. In "The Spies of Warsaw," the main character Mercier functions ostensibly as a military attaché stationed at the French embassy in Warsaw on the brink of World War II, but he is also a nimble spy. In his military attaché role, he is employed to maneuver the increasingly difficult relations between the French and the Poles, as the Nazis are about to descend on both countries. At the same time, in his spy role, he collects military intelligence to protect against that same Nazi invasion. Furst is terrific at evoking the atmosphere of Europe pre-World War II; he gives the reader a good sense of the hopes and fears individuals must have had at that time.

Spies of the Balkans by Alan Furst

In *Spies of the Balkans*, the War has already come to Europe but not yet to the setting of this story -- Macedonian Greece in 1940. Here again, the main character, Costa Zannis, plays a dual role. He is a senior police official, head of an office that handles special political cases. At the same time, he operates like a spy in that he works assiduously against the Nazi enemy, helping individuals who are targets of the Nazis to escape to safety. Furst is adept at creating the anxious tone that existed in Greece at the time. The Nazis are about to invade Greece and many are desperately trying to escape before the Nazis arrive. As a credit to Furst's mastery of language, the reader can sense their fear.

Rae Paltiel

Stagestruck by Peter Lovesey

This is the latest in the Detective Superintendent Peter Diamond series set in Bath and its environs. An actress is wickedly scarred by sabotage to her stage make-up, there's a murder disguised by a suicide, and then another murder. To further complicate things, Diamond himself is plagued by a psychological aversion to the theatre. Legends and superstitions of the Theatre Royal abound. The tortoise butterfly (a bad omen) was seen twice and the ghost of the grey lady was spotted in the upper box before the second murder.

The play is "I am a Camera" starring pop star Clarion Calhoun. Within minutes of entering the stage, her face started burning and she was rushed to the hospital where they discovered she was burned by sodium hydroxide. Denise, the make-up girl, swears she used nothing but the usual formula and has been working there six years. But why was she found dead backstage and was it suicide or murder?

Everyone in the theatre is a suspect. Francis Melot, Chairman of the Theatre Trust; Hedley Sherman, director; Denise the make-up girl; Kate, the wardrobe mistress; and Preston Barnes, leading man and drug addict.

Through the maze of theories and clues, Diamond finally comes to a conclusion. The ending has two big surprises, the identity of the murderer and the reason for Diamond's aversion to the theatre.

Peter Lovesey is a popular British mystery writer and his writing and plots are first rate.

Pat Crane

ROBIN OF MAPLEWOOD

Until five years ago, I lived in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, with a small yard by Maplewood standards. There were always a few local birds around.

But every spring and fall, hundreds of birds would appear and make a pit-stop in the yard. It turns out Bay Ridge is a migration route north and south. Twice a year the yard felt like a Hitchcock experience. Rarely in Maplewood do I see more than a bird or two except for a single robin. Every morning he went up my drive, perched on a rock in the front yard and visited with me eye-to-eye.

In the winter he came once in awhile. In spring he made his usual appearance up the driveway to the rock. Last year he didn't visit and I wondered about my lost friend.

This year another robin arrived, stopping at the bird bath before going up the driveway. Did my friend pass on a roadmap to his friend? Who knows?

I hope the routine continues. It's the best company every morning.

Teresa G. Helmkamp

Friends' Tribute Cards make wonderful gifts (tax deductible) to honor or remember a lover of libraries, books, and reading. All donations are gladly accepted. The donor of \$25 or more may suggest a specific subject area for a book or other library material (book on tape, children's book, large print book, etc.) to be purchased. The Honoree's name will be inscribed on a Friends' bookplate and placed in the specially selected item. Your Honoree will receive a special acknowledgment of your gift.

Donna D'Amato, Tribute Chair

SPECIAL GIFTS

We appreciate the generous gifts contributed to us by the following Friends. They enable us to continue supporting programs, technology and other needs of our library. Thanks to all.

Lorraine Ashley
Bernice Bartels
Barbara Huber & Chester Ensign
Hagaman Charitable Trust
Mariana Hernandez
Amy Miano & Maurice Hryshko
Irene Kosinski

Stuart Lutz
Diane Mangasarian
Joanne Sockle & Arthur Rose
Aleza & Joe Rosenberg
Sharon & Ford Stewart
Yun Ye

Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

FRIENDS OF THE MAPLEWOOD LIBRARY
Friends@maplewoodlibrary.org
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Membership for the Calendar Year 2012: Individual - \$15.00
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Please make checks payable to:
Friends of Maplewood Library
Mail to: P.O. Box 183
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YES, I would like to help with Friends' activities