

# FRIENDS OF THE MAPLEWOOD LIBRARY NEWS

SPRING 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...

Welcome to the new Library Director, Sarah Lester. Since joining us in January, I have seen Sarah helping out at the circulation desk, fielding questions at the reference desk and working in the children's room. Please be sure to say "hello" when you see Sarah – wherever you see her.

I hope you've had a look at the Library's 2011 Annual Report (available in the Library and on the website). All the facts and figures once again prove what a vital part our Library plays in the Maplewood community. As Friends, we can be proud that we have played an important role in keeping our Library services moving forward. Again this year, Friends will fund basic improvements to our Library, including a sound system for Hilton; updated equipment to be used by speakers in Memorial Hall; a system for hanging monthly art displays; two new computers for the Teen Zone. In addition, we will continue to fund the children/teen/adult summer reading programs, maintenance of the website, the Museum Passes program, the Hilton Writing Lab, staff scholarships and book purchases.

All of this would not be possible without the generous support of our members and the community at large through dues, special gifts and book sales. The Friends' Board will continue to work hard to raise funds and to spend them wisely. When you're talking to your friends and neighbors, do encourage them to join us. The dues are small, but the impact is great.

Our Annual Meeting and Executive Board election is scheduled for Monday, May 21. Our speaker will be Michelle Miller of CBS News (see more information inside this newsletter). Hope to see you there and at the Book Sale.

Laura Nial, President

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends' Annual Meeting and election of the 2012-2014 Board will take place on **Monday, May 21, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.** in Memorial Hall, Maplewood Memorial Library, Baker Street. The following list of Officers and Executive Board Members is submitted for approval by the membership:

President	Laura Nial
Vice President	Rae Paltiel
Secretary	Janice Pedalino
Treasurer	David Nial (2012-2013)
Executive Board:	Bernadette Albertson
	Emily Bibbins
	Sue Bottino
	Donna D'Amato
	Nancy Denholtz
	Deborah Purdon
	Barbara Sanok
	Anne Smith

Donna D'Amato, Chair  
Rae Paltiel  
Bernadette Albertson  
Nominating Committee

## BOOK SALE – APRIL 28 AND 29

There's nothing quite like a good used-book sale! Buy that favorite classic you've always wanted to read again. Stock up on fun beach reads. Find the one book missing in your favorite series. Discover why everyone raved about *The Help*. Select a stack of books for the voracious young reader in your family. Thanks to so many generous donations, you'll find everything at our Spring Book Sale. Please join us on **Saturday, April 28, from 10 to 5**, and **Sunday, April 29, from 11 to 5 (bag sale – entry from parking lot only)**.

Janice Pedalino  
Laura Nial  
Co-Chairs

## From the Library Director . . .

On an average day in 2011, 916 people walked through the doors of the Maplewood Libraries. Wow! I've thought a lot about this since I started my position as director in January. No other municipal building in town attracts as many people each day.

There are many reasons why people in our community visit our libraries. We have a tremendous collection of books and other materials to check out, great children's services, a strong local history collection, free public computers, skilled reference staff, programs for people of all ages, Wi-Fi, meeting spaces for community groups, and private study rooms. But with less than 5% of the municipal budget allocated to the library, we've needed the help of the Friends to make this all possible. This past year, the Friends enhanced our services even further through the purchase of six Nook eReaders loaded with 30 new titles. The Nooks have been very popular and our patrons are very appreciative that the Library has them. We've also just launched a new downloadable collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks that our patrons can download to their own Nooks, Kindles, iPods, iPads, and other devices.

With all of these new services and demands for new technologies, it's an exciting time to work in libraries. Our materials circulation is already up 9% from this time last year, so we know that the demand for library services has increased. My goal as the director is to ensure that our libraries continue to anticipate the needs of our community. We already do this by putting just the right book in a child's hand, providing job training classes for the people in our community looking for work, checking out a laptop to a student afterschool, and welcoming the community to free and engaging programs.

Thank you again for making so much of this possible. I'd love to hear from the Friends and other community members regarding what you would like to see at our libraries. Please feel free to stop by, call me at 973-762-1622 ext. 5003, or send me an email at [slester@maplewoodlibrary.org](mailto:slester@maplewoodlibrary.org). It's great to be back!

Sarah

Sarah Lester is a Maplewood resident who was most recently the Director of the Nutley Public Library. She started her career at the New York Public Library and also worked at the Marin County and San Francisco Public Library systems.

### **BIRDS OF A FEATHER**

Maybe you know this, but I didn't. Andrew Carnegie constructed 2,500 libraries all over the world. I know he had the money and the power but, more importantly, he had the spirit to follow an idea.

Among us there are those who continue to dream, hope and act.

On a business trip to Nepal, a man most of us have not heard of came across a school with no books. He offered to help and delivered mountains of books by donkey. So inspired by this kernel of aid, he left his job in the business world and established "Room to Read" in 2000. The man is John Wood.

The organization has to-date built 12,000 libraries across the world providing children with the opportunity to grow, hope, and contribute to the world around them. They started their own publishing company because few books for children were available in the language of many communities. Over 570 books have been printed. There's more to this story, but this is enough to inspire me.

The article I read is in the November 6, 2011 *New York Times*. It reminded me that a person with courage can change, one step at a time, the things that need to be changed.

Andrew Carnegie would be a friend to John Wood.

Theresa G. Helmkamp

## ADVENTURES IN TV JOURNALISM

You've seen her on CBS network programs such as "Evening News," "This Morning" and "Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood." Now you can meet CBS news correspondent Michelle Miller in person at the Friends of the Library Spring Program on Monday, May 21, in Memorial Hall at the Main Branch.

A prize-winning journalist whose many honors include the Edward R. Murrow Award, Michelle Miller has interviewed presidents and other world leaders and celebrities and has reported from Los Angeles, New Orleans and Washington, DC. She is now based in New York. A graduate of Howard University with a master's degree from Dillard University, Ms. Miller is a native Californian and current resident of Maplewood.

Please join us for what is sure to be an informative and entertaining program as Michelle Miller tells us about her experiences and career in the world of TV journalism and perhaps gives us a behind-the-scenes look into the making of major network news programs. Everyone is welcome to this free event on **Monday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m., in Memorial Hall, Maplewood Memorial Library, Baker Street.** Refreshments will be served.

Anne Smith, Program Chair

### Recent Book Purchases Funded by Friends

#### Adult Department

*Bleed For Me* by Michael Robotham  
*Fear Index* by Robert Harris  
*The Demi-Monde: Winter* by Rod Rees  
*House at Sea's End* by Elly Griffiths  
*Heft* by Liz Moore  
*Paradise Falls* by Jonnie Jacobs  
*The Beginner's Goodbye* by Anne Tyler  
*Every Third Thought* by John Barth  
*Crystal Gardens* by Amanda Quick  
*The Wind Through the Keyhole* by Stephen King  
*Death of a Kingfisher* by M.C. Beaton  
*Girl Reading* by Katie Ward

#### Young Adult Department

*Trash* by Andy Mulligan  
*Scrawl* by Mark Shulman  
*Shaman King* (a Manga series) #8, #9, and #10 by Hiroyuki Takei  
*Ichiro* by Ryan Inzana

#### Children's Department

*Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom*  
by Shane Evans  
*Tales for Very Picky Eaters* by Josh Schneider  
*A Ball For Daisy* by Chris Raschka  
*Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match* by Monica Brown  
*Soldier Bear* by Bibi Dumon Tak  
*Maximilian and the Mystery of the Guardian Angel*  
by Xavier Garza  
*The Great Migration: Journey to the North*  
by Eloise Greenfield  
*Diego Rivera: His World and Ours*  
by Duncan Tonatiuh  
*The Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred*  
by Samantha Vamos  
*Blackout* by John Rocco  
*Grandpa Green* by Lane Smith  
*I Can Say a Prayer* by Sophie Piper  
*Me--Jane* by Patrick McDonnell  
*Mr. Burke is Berserk* by Dan Gutman  
*Mr Harrison is Embarrassin'* by Dan Gutman  
*See Me Run* by Paul Meisel

## SUMMMER READING CLUB PREVIEW

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for funding another summer filled with fun programs for children, teens, and adults. Our annual Summer Reading Club is an incentive program to keep children and their families reading over the summer. We will have events, activities, and reading promotions for all ages. Maintaining reading skills for children and teens is a crucial element of this program – students who read over the summer have greater academic achievement than students who do not. Family literacy is an important component, and the library is the perfect place to offer the support and motivation needed to nurture a lifelong love of reading.

We are still in the early planning stages for our summer programs, but we will base our themes on the Collaborative Summer Reading Program – a consortium of state librarians working together. The Collaborative Program offers group discounts, ideas, and artwork. We will all be using a nighttime theme this summer.

The program for CHILDREN is called: **DREAM BIG – READ**. We will offer an assortment of exciting programs and activities to bring kids into the library and stimulate an interest in books and reading.

The program for TEENS is called: **OWN THE NIGHT**. We will offer book discussions, craft programs, trivia, scavenger, and other events and programs. Last summer's "Teens Read to Kids" program was so successful that we have continued it over the school year and will continue it again this summer. It is a great way for different generations to work together.

The program for ADULTS is called: **BETWEEN THE COVERS**. We'll offer a range of book-related and nighttime-themed programs, activities and promotions. There will also be themed book displays, raffles and giveaways. Our goal is to encouraged adults to have fun, explore new interests and be good models for their children in the Summer Reading Club.

With the help of the Friends, the Maplewood Library will offer one big, family-oriented reading adventure.

Jane Folger, Children's Librarian  
Irene Langlois, Teen Librarian  
Joanne Beckerich, Adult Programs and Publicity

### MEET YOUR LIBRARY STAFF. . .

My name is Donita Brown and I have been a Senior Library Assistant/Head of the Periodical Department at the Maplewood Memorial Library (Main Branch) for almost eight years. My job is to sort magazines daily. All the adult magazines are processed and cataloged and then entered into the Millennium Catalog System. The children's magazines go directly to the Children's Room. A metal box on my desk contains information on each periodical in our collection. A list of the current magazine collection is kept updated and a copy is given to the various department heads and the circulation desk. I also handle the newspapers daily, making sure we have received them, keeping back issues for staff and public use.

My experience working at the Maplewood Library is fulfilling. The staff members are friendly and helpful while meeting the patrons' needs.

## These books have been enjoyed by Friends:

### ***Defending Jacob* by William Landy**

*Defending Jacob* by William Landy is a well-written, readable novel that at first seems to be a simple mystery and courtroom drama about a young boy, Jacob, accused of killing one of his classmates. But the situation is complicated by the fact that the accused's father, Andy Barber, is an assistant district attorney who is handling the police investigation. Furthermore, the father has concealed family secrets that could impact the case. And there are hints that the accused may have been bullied by the victim. Throughout, Jacob professes his innocence. Andy believes him and does everything in his power to protect Jacob. The book is a gripping page turner. There are plot twists throughout the story that keep the reader intrigued. And there are numerous issues raised about marriage, parenting, justice, ethics that would keep a book group talking for hours

Rae Paltiel

### ***Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell**

What better way to close out the recent year-long sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Civil War than rereading Margaret Mitchell's great literary work *Gone with the Wind*? Of course, I had read it many years ago as a teenager--reading with a flashlight under the bed covers with the sheet over my head so my mother wouldn't catch me staying up too late again reading "that book." But at a Library book sale I had picked up the 1,086-page tome and flipped through a few pages right there, and like the first time I was hooked again on this fabulous romantic novel.

Of course, the equally fabulous famous movie version, which I have seen numerous times, loomed large in my mind, but still I was struck by the richness of the original and memorable characters which could not all be captured in the film, even at its length. The book contains long passages of sociology and cultural history including details of antebellum society and family life, which by a lesser writer could slow up or weigh down the story, but do not. Despite its length and heft, it is a quick, easy and thoroughly enthralling read.

Scarlett O'Hara was only 16 years old at the time of the barbeque at Twelve Oaks; Melanie was 18; Rhett Butler and Ashley Wilkes both mid-thirties. So Scarlett was a silly, self-absorbed teenager! But in the next twelve years covered in the book she had three husbands and a child by each, her world was "gone with the wind that swept through Georgia," and she learned to work harder than a field hand. She herself said she had changed but "I wouldn't have changed if I could have helped it."

But maturity? It took the whole book for Scarlett to realize that her "love" for Ashley wasn't the real thing and that a man with the "gumption" that she favored might be slipping away from her. Scarlett always relied on what she called her "defense against the world"--her ability to put off thinking about something important. There are numerous instances in the book when this occurs. So her final litany was entirely in character--"I'll think about it tomorrow. I can stand it then...After all, tomorrow is another day." So we are left to wonder what happens next in the lives of these unforgettable characters, one sure sign of a great book.

*Gone with the Wind* still gives me chills and thrills. Still worth reading.

Anne Smith

### ***Execution Dock* by Anne Perry**

Victorian London is the setting for a series of stories featuring former Police Inspector William Monk and former Crimean nurse Hester Latterly. A large part of the interest in these detective-type tales derives from the beautifully detailed description of Victorian life – the withdrawing rooms of the upper middle class, the kitchens of the working class, the abject poverty of the inhabitants of the tenements. *Execution Dock* finds Monk newly installed as Commander of the Thames River Police. Choosing to continue an investigation into the death of a young boy begun by his predecessor, Monk pursues the kingpin of the river-trade in young boys knowing that the trail will inevitably lead to men with the power to protect such an enterprise. It is hard to imagine a time when pursuing criminals did not include fingerprints and forensic laboratories but instead involved many hours spent travelling on foot, by public omnibus or boat following one lead after the other in hopes of finding that one important clue. Anne Perry skillfully lures you into that world.

Laura Nial

## 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.

Shlomo Antika  
John and Jeanne Bausmith  
Emily and Charles Bibbins  
Margo Brown  
Conley Family  
Michele F. Davis  
Elizabieta and Charles Harding  
Hargrave-Kerns Family  
Aleida Hauptman  
Amy Miano and Maurice Hryshko  
Hal and Barbara Klingsporn  
Sarah Lester and Chris Schabacker  
Diane Mangasarian  
Eve Michel and Alfred Milanese

Anja Moen  
Dr. Michael Och  
Mary Lou Phifer  
Douglas and Susan Present  
Pamela Erens and Jonathan Ratner  
Ed Reuter  
Herbert Rogall  
David Rojer  
Barbara Sanok  
Pauline and Noel Siegel  
Weston and Marilyn White  
Marcia and John Zweig  
The Evening Membership Department of the  
Women's Club of Maplewood

Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

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**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

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The Friends of the Maplewood Library support many of our wonderful Library's offerings and programs but we rely on your help to do this! If you are already a Friend for 2012, thank you so much. If you have not renewed your membership or joined yet, please do so. We need you!

FRIENDS OF THE MAPLEWOOD LIBRARY  
Friends@maplewoodlibrary.org  
A 501(c) (3) Organization

Membership for the Calendar Year 2012:  Individual - \$15.00  
 Family - \$20.00  
 Contributing - \$25.00  
 Special Gift - \$\_\_\_\_\_

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YES, I would like to help with Friends' Book Sales.

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