



# NEWSLETTER

## *President's Notes*

In connection with the Library's Centennial, I was asked to provide some information about the Friends' contributions to the Library since the group's formation in 1942. Although much information has been lost to the vagaries of time, I did discover how important Friends gifts have been to the upgrading of the Library and its services.

For example, this is a timeline of donations towards electronic upgrades:

- 1966: Camera
- 1986: Microfilm cabinet
- 1994: First public computers and Internet connection
- 2007: eAudiobooks
- 2010: Redesigned website
- 2011: Nooks
- 2012: iPads for teens and Memorial Hall presentation equipment
- 2013: WiFi upgrade and circulating video games

And here are examples of other significant contributions:

- 1961: Movie program
- 1986: Folding tables and ART 07040
- 1994: First Sunday hours
- 2001: Main circulation desk
- 2004: Memorial Hall renovation
- 2007: Bike rack
- 2008: Memorial Hall acoustic panels and Hilton book drop
- 2009: Redesigned logo
- 2011: Museum passes, teen space and Hilton writing lab
- 2012: Art display system
- 2013: Hilton Math Matters

In addition, since 1997 the Friends have fully funded the children's summer reading program, and now the teen and adult summer programs as well. This summer 1,371 children, 179 teens and 123 adults participated.

Over the years, the Friends of the Library have funded over \$300,000 of improvements and programs. That's quite a lot accomplished with membership dues, special gifts and book sales! When people ask why they should join Friends, just "give 'em the facts" and remind them of Friends dedication to serving the Library and community since 1942.

See you at the book sale!

*-Laura Nial, President*

## LOOKING FOR A GOOD READ?

Cool wintry weather is a great time to settle down with a good book, research a vacation, try a new soup recipe, learn to play bridge, knit socks for gifts, get immersed in history, or have a family afternoon watching a movie. The Friends of the Maplewood Library's Fall Book Sale offers an opportunity to find a book on almost anything, as well as a DVD video to brighten a dreary day.

Cookbooks, biographies, history, classics, crafts, fiction, mystery, sci-fi, romance, children's, tweens – an amazing selection awaits you at the sale. DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, videos, and vinyl records also abound. Spread the word to all your friends and neighbors, and bring the family to take advantage of these great bargains and have a fun time.

- Saturday, November 23: 10 to 5
- Sunday,\* November 24: 11 to 5 (fill a bag with books, etc. of your choice)

(\*entry through back door by parking lot)

*- Laura Nial and Bernadette Albertson,  
Co-Chairs*

## ADULT DEPARTMENT

It's been 100 years of great reading, learning, and fun at the Maplewood Library. We've been celebrating our 100th birthday all year long with a variety of events—big birthday parties in the spring, the Centennial Quiz Show, the “Death in the Stacks” murder mystery evening in October.

One of my projects as the head of the Adult Department has been to help put together an exhibit on the library's history, which should be on display by the time you read this newsletter. It's been a fascinating opportunity for me to learn how this institution evolved over the years—always with unwavering support from our community, which from its earliest days placed a very high value on books and education. The Friends of the Library have been with us since 1942. The challenge in those days was to advocate for and fund the construction of our two fine library buildings, which came to pass in the 1950s. Then as now, the Friends played an essential role in helping the library innovate, reach out to the community, and offer you the programs and materials you want.

It's important to know our history. That became a lot easier this summer, when the library converted its microfilm holdings of our local newspaper, the *News-Record*, to an online digital archive. Up until now, if someone had a question about a person or event in Maplewood's past, the reference librarians would have to search laboriously through one microfilm after another. There was no index, and if the date was not known, the information would probably never be found.

Welcome to the 21st century, *News-Record*! Now the entire archive, stretching back to 1915, can be easily searched and the article printed out in no time. This project was funded by grants from Maplewood's Open Space Trust Fund for Historic Preservation and the N.J. Historical Commission. The archive is searchable within the library buildings only.

History aside, the Friends are always there to help keep us up to date. This year they funded an upgrade to the audio/visual system in Memorial Hall, including a built-in projector, screen, and speakers. Now we are working to give the Hilton branch meeting room a similar upgrade.

And if you were among the thousands of people who crowded into the library in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy last year, you are probably aware that our wi-fi could use some beefing up. Friends to the rescue! We will upgrade our wireless network at the Main Library this fall, with funding from the Friends, as well as from the Township and a local foundation. We may never be able to support a thousand people at once (and hope another such emergency never arises), but we will aim to do much better.

Some things never change, and we know that you come to the library because you love books and reading. We are always working to provide you with the best books—in the traditional printed form, and all the new formats too: books on CD, Playaways, and eBooks and eAudiobooks

to read or listen to on a library Nook or your own computer, e-reader, tablet, or phone.

Taken all together, people are reading more than ever. We know you want to discuss interesting books, so we are sponsoring more book talks and signings every month by local authors. We started a new book club in October,

called Garden State Reads, which will feature works and visits by New Jersey authors. Currently scheduled is *The Virgins* by Pamela Erens, on Monday, December 2, with a book discussion at 7:00 pm and a visit by the author at 7:30 pm.

See you there!

*-Barbara Laub, Head of Technical and Adult Services*

### BOOKBAGS!

Did you know we have Friends of the Maplewood Library tote bags available for only \$3 each?

Stop by the front desk at Main or Hilton and pick one up for your books.

AND I QUOTE

I hereby admit to an addiction: the love of a well-turned phrase. At the Spring Book Sale I found two books of quotations and I couldn't resist them. The following are a few words, some pithy, some humorous and some ironic.

*It is great art to know how to sell wind.*

-Confucius

*If Man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties.*

-Sir Francis Bacon

*He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I ever met.*

-Abraham Lincoln

*I had never had a piece of toast  
Particularly long and wide,  
But fell upon the sanded floor,  
And always on the buttered side.*

-James Payn 1835-1910

*What a good thing Adam had. When he said a good thing he knew nobody had said it before.*

-Mark Twain, 1935-1910

*Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.*

-Will Rogers, 1879-1935

*Come forth Lazarus, And he came fifth and lost the job.*

-James Joyce, 1882-1941

*Is it progress if the cannibal uses knife and fork?*

-Stanislaw Lec, 1909-1966

*The advantage of being married to an archaeologist is that the older you get, the more interested he becomes in you.*

-Agatha Christie, 1890-1976

*A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.*

-Bob Hope

*Anyone who isn't confused doesn't really understand the situation.*

-Edward R. Murrow, 1908-1965

*The wisdom of the wise and the experience of the ages are perpetuated by quotations.*

-Benjamin Disraeli

Well put, I would say.

-Teresa G. Helmkamp

**Board**

President	Laura Nial
Vice President	Rae Paltiel
Secretary	Deborah Purdon
Treasurer	David Nial
Executive Board	Bernadette Albertson
	Emily Bibbins
	Donna D'Amato
	Nancy Denholtz
	Barbara Sanok
	Anne Smith

[friends@maplewoodlibrary.org](mailto:friends@maplewoodlibrary.org)

Newsletter Editor:  
Brian Glaser

**MAPLEWOOD LITERARY AWARD**

2013 has been an exciting year at the Maplewood Library. We've had many wonderful centennial celebrations and are now planning our culminating event.

We are thrilled to announce the first annual Maplewood Ideas Festival to be held in April 2014. The festival will spotlight the talent in our community with a series of panels, readings and performances at the Library. The highlight of the Ideas Festival will be the presentation of the inaugural Maplewood Literary Award on April 5, 2014, at 2pm. In 2014, the award will go to the renowned author, Judith Viorst.

Viorst grew up in Maplewood, graduated from Columbia High School in 1948, and was inducted in the Columbia High School Hall of Fame in 1990. As an author and a journalist, she has written bestselling works for children, poignant books for adults, and numerous articles in newspapers and magazines.

In her letter accepting the Literary Award, Viorst wrote: "I hold libraries very dear, and remember routinely taking out as many books as I was allowed

to carry home. They nourished me through my growing-up years in Maplewood."

We hope the Friends of the Library will be able to join us on April 5 as we honor Judith Viorst in a manner befitting her stature as one of Maplewood's great writers.

*-Sarah Lester, Director*

**TRIBUTES**

Friends' Tribute Cards make wonderful (tax deductible) gifts 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 CD, 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 acknowledgement of your gift.

*-Donna D'Amato, Tribute Chair*

**Special Gifts**

Apr. 2013 through Oct. 2013

*We appreciate the generous gifts contributed by the following donors. Thank you all.*

- Lorraine Ashley
- Nancy Schwartz & Sean Bailey
- Jeanne Bausmith
- Elizabeth Benedict
- Elaine Blumgart
- Treasure & Rich Cohen
- The Conley Family
- Adelaide Drubel
- Dorothy Engel
- Mimi Fogel
- Miriam Fischer
- Ellen Handler
- Hargrave-Kerns Family
- Anja Moen
- The Payne Family
- Aleza & Joe Rosenberg
- Shelley Sullivan
- Eleanor Winslow

*-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair*



*Hilton Branch Manager Ina Rimpau meets Dr. Ruth Westheimer at Book Expo America.*

## BOOK REVIEWS

***Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*  
by Allen C. Geulzo**

There may have been more books written about the battle of Gettysburg than any other single event in United States history, with literally hundreds of books covering the entire campaign, each single day's actions, fighting at specific areas of the battlefield, the leaders, the participants, cavalry actions, medical care and the list goes on. Given the coverage this event has received, is there room for yet another book covering the events of Gettysburg? As Allen C. Geulzo shows in *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion* (Knopf, 2013), there's always room for one more.

The hallmark of this book is a fresh outlook on many aspects of the battle. We learn that the Union general Dan Sickles was one of the first persons to be acquitted of murder (of Francis Scott Key's son, no less) on a defense of temporary insanity. With regards to army politics, Dr. Geulzo discusses that Lee's army had a bias for Virginian officers, and he analyzes the split between advocates for McClellan (a previous commander of the Union army who was anti-emancipation) and the Republican generals (strong supporters of Lincoln), and how that conflict was still affecting promotions within the army at this time.

In addition, the book discusses something that prior works have only made passing reference to, namely the impact of the invasion of Pennsylvania on the local African American population.

African Americans in southern Pennsylvania (most of whom were free) made a mass exodus from the area, because as the Confederates entered the state, they rounded up as many as they could, including the elderly, the women, and the children, making no distinction between freeborn African Americans and runaways. They didn't care what their status was; they intended to sell them as slaves back in the markets in Richmond.

The author also talks about the history of the warfare that was used in the battle, and the strategy of past battles in the war that led up to what was being used at Gettysburg. Dr. Geulzo takes the reader into the intense actions of individual soldiers, squads, regiments, and brigades, how a few regiments made the difference of the entire battle from General William Barksdale's Mississippi regiments who came very close in breaking the Union line on the second day of battle, to the heroic 1st Minnesota who charged a brigade and made the difference in holding the Union line. He points out how often there was a "just in time" arrival of fresh troops on the Union side that prevented what might have been a significant breakthrough by the Confederate forces. Finally, he also describes the horror after the battle, with thousands of wounded and dead around the tiny Pennsylvania town.

*Gettysburg: The Last Invasion* is literature, history, and storytelling at their best.

- Bill Donovan

***The Woman Upstairs*  
by Claire Messud**

This novel is worth reading and makes for an excellent book group discussion. The story focuses on Nora Eldridge, an elementary school teacher in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Nora is a single woman who gave up her dream of becoming an artist to become an elementary school teacher. She is the quintessential "woman upstairs": no spouse, no children, only one good friend, Nora lives a quiet life alone, devoted to her students.

But her life is changed dramatically when a new student, Reza Shahid, arrives from Paris and joins her class. At first, Nora fulfills her job as teacher, protecting Reza from xenophobic bullies in his school. Soon, she comes to know and become involved with his parents, too—his father Skandar, a visiting professor at Harvard, and his mother Sirena, a passionate artist—and she becomes entranced by each member of the family.

The story of Nora's gradual transformation is a fascinating tale, told from Nora's point of view. The book begins when Nora's relationship with the three Shahids is over. Then, the reader is brought back to the beginning when Nora first meets them. As the reader learns about the other characters and Nora's connection to them, the story becomes more and more layered. The adults in the book are complex and act unpredictably, keeping the reader interested throughout the novel.

-Rae Paltiel



*The scene at the most recent Friends of the Library Book Sale. Join us for the next one, November 23 and 24!*



A 501(c)(3) organization

**JOIN OR RENEW**

Friends of the Maplewood Library support many of our wonderful Library's offerings and programs, and we rely on your help to do this! If you are already a member for 2014, thank you so much. If you have not renewed your membership or joined yet, please do so. We need you!

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Maplewood Library.

Mail to: PO Box 183, Maplewood, NJ 07040

- Membership for calendar year 2014:
- Individual - \$15
  - Family - \$20
  - Contributing - \$25
  - Special Gift - \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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