



# NEWSLETTER

## *President's Notes*

To kick off our Fall season, the Friends of the Maplewood Library have a new logo! The Board decided to go for a fresh look and chose Julie Weinberg, a Maplewood graphic designer, to guide us through the process. (Julie also designed the Library's logo.) Hope you like our new look.

Have you taken advantage of the Museum Pass Program offered by the Library and sponsored by Friends? If not, you're missing out on a great opportunity to visit local museums and see wonderful exhibits—for free. The museums included in the program are the Guggenheim in New York (currently showing an exhibit of Kandinsky), the Morris Museum in Morristown (featuring works on paper by contemporary artists), the Montclair Art Museum (offering a collection of African-American quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts), and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (the conservatory is a special pleasure in the winter, and the garden is next door to the Brooklyn Museum).

Now is the time to renew your Friends membership for another year. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining us. The cost is minimal (\$15 individual and \$20 family), but the support it provides to both the Friends and the Library is incalculable. All of Friends' efforts are focused on keeping the Maplewood Memorial Library a vibrant community asset. So please talk us up among your friends and neighbors.

See you at the Book Sale!

*-Laura Nial, President*

## FALL BOOK SALE: NOVEMBER 22 - 23

The donations have poured in, the books have been sorted, the carts and boxes are filled. Now it's your turn to empty those carts and boxes! The Book Sale Committee is counting on you to lighten our load by sale's end.

Whether you're a history buff, a sports fanatic, a home chef, a romance reader, or mystery lover, you will find something at the sale to suit your taste. The selection of DVDs and CDs this fall is remarkable. And as usual, the children/tween/young adult area is overflowing with wonderful books.

So please join us:

- **Saturday, November 22: 10 - 5**

- **Sunday, November 23: 11 - 5**

(fill a bag with books, etc., of your choice; entry through back door by parking lot only)

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



**FIZZ! BOOM! READ!  
THE CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING CLUB**

Thank you Friends of the Library for your generous support of the Summer Reading Club, which had 1,297 participants. It was another amazing summer, and we could not have done it without the Friends.

Our *Fizz! Boom! Read!* Summer Reading Club ended on August 30. (The program was extended to help the many families who were away on vacation in August.) It was a successful summer, with many diverse programs and reading incentives—all of which was made possible by the Friends.

Throughout the summer we saw evidence that children were inspired to read: We heard children standing in front of the prize display saying “I’m going to read 100 hours to get that Scientist Goo”; we heard from parents that their first grader went from being a beginning reader to an enthusiastic one, or their second grader went from being a struggling reader to a confident one; we heard many times that non-readers were begging their parents to bring them to the Library. As one fourth grade girl told us: *“I am a slow reader, but I liked it because I could still get prizes.”*



The program inspired children to write as well, with many success stories of children who had no interest in writing spending large portions of their summer writing in order to obtain prizes. Each summer brings a plethora of stories like these—

demonstrating once again the effect of positive reinforcement, and the power of learning combined with fun.

A Maplewood parent summed it all up in this recent email: *“Thanks for a GREAT summer reading program! [Our children] enjoyed the challenges and of course*

*the rewards! Thanks for continuing to provide a fun and educational haven for our community! We love MML!!!!”*

The special event of the summer was a visit by Field Station: Dinosaurs in July. After a song and story-fest in Memorial Hall, the folks from FSD brought the kids up to the front of the Library where they were greeted by an animatronic, life-sized Tyrannosaurus Rex. The T. Rex even

roared in an authentic way—scaring most of the kids, but in a good way. It was a huge hit, and one little boy said: *“This was the best day of my life!”*

So, a humungous, T. Rex-sized *thank you* to the Friends for enabling us to present such memorable events.

*-Jane Folger, Head of Children's Services*

### SPARK A REACTION @ THE LIBRARY: THE TEEN SUMMER READING CLUB

We want to thank you, Friends of the Library, for again making the Teen Summer Reading Club possible. The theme this year was “Spark a Reaction,” and Maplewood teens had their creativity sparked this summer by instruction in visual art, architecture, science, and digital media. We had 74 teens register for the reading incentive program; 40 book reviews were handed in; 10 raffle tickets were issued to teens who completed a reading incentive Bingo card; and we ran 34 programs with 371 teens attending.



Often we have tweens tell us that the Library’s Summer Reading Club is their “summer camp.” This summer we saw this as a reality for many who attended summer school at Maplewood Middle School. It was the first time in four years that middle school summer classes were held at Maplewood Middle. Every weekday a group of kids would come over to the Library after class to play Minecraft, attend programs, complete drop-in crafts, and work on their summer assignments.

Minecraft is an incredibly popular Lego® style video game adventure that puts players in a randomly generated world where they can create their own structures and contraptions out of textured cubes. The game stimulates the players’ creativity and builds their social skills through collaboration and competition. Thanks to the funding by Friends of the Library we are able to provide access to a closed Minecraft server, which levels the playing field

between the kids who can afford to have their own Minecraft account and those who can’t. The closed server also provides a safe playing environment because it’s only available on the Library’s Teen Zone computers, not to the outside Minecraft world.

Summer program highlights included “Build a Minecraft World.”

Every computer and laptop in the Teen Zone was taken up with both girls and boys building a world from scratch. This includes taking saplings from trees, growing trees for lumber, growing crops, mining natural resources, and

building skyscrapers.

Other highlights included artist Mansa Mussa teaching collage to kids and teens. We had two recent Columbia High School graduates running programs this summer. Bryce monitored our MakerSpace Open Lab for five consecutive Tuesdays; he helped kids build models with the Rhino 3D CAD software and printed the models on the 3D printer. Jonah taught an introductory GarageBand workshop, and both Maplewood alumni did a wonderful job. We held a book group, a Mad Scientist Scavenger Hunt, built density towers, and “upcycled.” Noah Brauner taught a 3D CAD workshop and an architectural modeling class. Joy Yagid ran two filmmaking classes with “Why I Love My Library” as the subject of the films.

With your help we were able to supply a summer of fun and learning for the middle school and high school students of Maplewood. Thank you again.

*-Irene Langlois, Head of Teen Services*



MAPLEWOOD IDEAS FESTIVAL 2015

It's a beautiful time of year in Maplewood and there are many wonderful programs, author visits, exhibits, workshops and events at the Library. While we are enjoying the vibrancy of the Library in the fall, we are also planning the second annual Maplewood Ideas Festival from March 18 – April 2, 2015, celebrating the talent and creativity in our community.

We are excited to announce a fantastic lineup that includes internationally renowned architects Richard Meier (CHS 1952) and Peter Eisenman (CHS 1950) on Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m., and award-winning author Paul Auster (CHS 1965) in conversation with the *New Yorker's* D.T. Max on Saturday, March 28, at 2 p.m. Auster's talk will be followed by the presentation of the 2nd annual Maplewood Literary Award in his honor.

Academy Award-winning costume designer Ann Roth will also be talking at the festival in conversation with her daughter, Maplewood resident Hannah Sorkin (date to be announced). The full Festival lineup will be announced in January 2015.

We thank the Friends of the Library for their support of the 2014 Maplewood Ideas Festival and are tremendously grateful to live in a town with such exceptional talent.

-Sarah Lester, Director

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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

LITERARY ELEMENTS:  
THE ADULT SUMMER READING CLUB

A total of 72 patrons signed up for Literary Elements, the 2014 Adult Summer Reading Club. Each week, registrants were asked to answer a book-related question in order to enter that week's raffle. There were 10 weeks of raffles, with a winner getting a goody bag of themed items each week.

Some examples of the questions asked: What fictional character would you most like to meet, and why? What are your 5 favorite fiction picks? What book have you tried reading but just couldn't get through?

Patrons enjoyed contributing, and many of their answers were posted on our Readers' Place webpage. A grand prize winner was drawn from among the summer total of 193 entries. Dania Murphy was very happy to win a \$100 gift card to [words] bookstore!

-Joanne Beckerich, Adult Programming

### ONCE UPON A LENTIL

This is not the start of a fairy tale. It turns out that the lentil has a long, healthy, and delicious history.

My interest in lentils peaked last year when I decided to plant a few that escaped during a rinsing. Lo and behold they germinated and grew to produce more lentils. Because they grew so easily, I finally understood why we have been eating them since pre-historic times. Most likely it was the first cultivated crop.

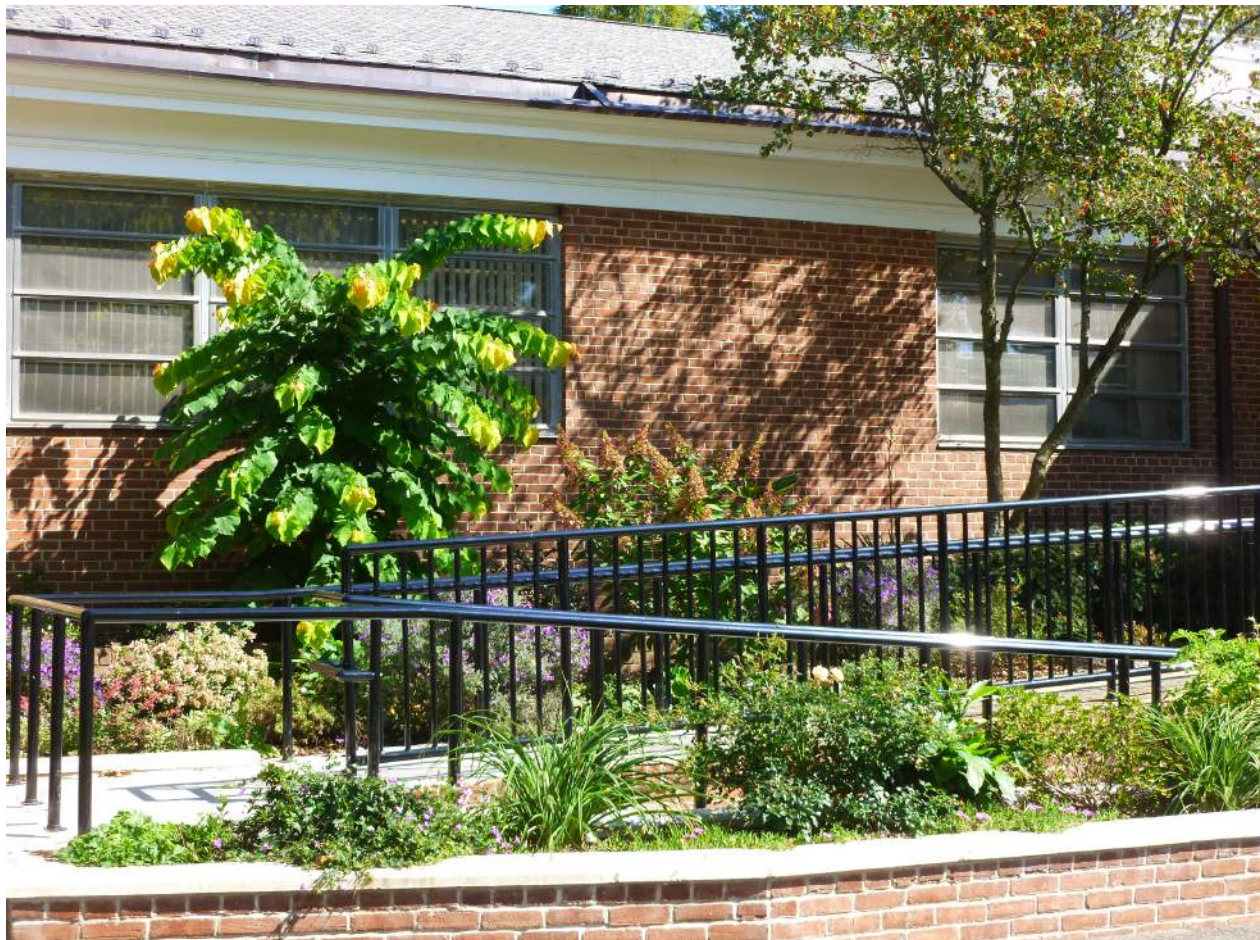
Archeologists have discovered lentils from the Paleolithic period (10,000 BC) in what is now southern Greece. They gradually spread out to the

Middle East and became popular throughout all of Europe.

Today we recognize the health benefits of lentils, but in medieval times they were regarded with doubt and suspicion—imagine that! They regained popularity in 18th century France. German peasants during that century lived on cabbage, rye bread, and lentils. Here we are in the 21st century and the lentil continues its journey through history.

Now when I cook a pot of lentils, I'm glad they're still around. Yet for me the mystery continues. Where did they come from to start with? Do you think we'll ever know?

*-Teresa G. Helmkamp*



Have you noticed the beautiful garden that has sprouted up alongside the ramp at the front of the Main Library? This garden has been funded by the Maplewood Garden Club as a community project. It was designed by Joanne Beckerich, an MGC and Library staff member, and installed by David Nial, a Garden Clubber as well as a Friend.



## BOOK REVIEW

***The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914*  
by Margaret MacMillan**

July 2014 marked the centennial of the start of the First World War. Since the end of that war people have been trying to understand why it began. Europe was going through a long period of peace and was thriving. What caused the leaders on that continent to start a war that had such catastrophic consequences?

In her introduction, MacMillan states: "Most of the copious literature on the events of 1914 understandably ask why the Great War broke out. Perhaps we need to ask another sort of question: why did the long peace not continue? Why did the forces pushing towards peace—and they were strong ones—not prevail? They had done so before, after all. Why did the system fail this time? One way of getting at an answer is to see how Europe's options had narrowed down in the decades before 1914."

MacMillan provides a detailed introduction to all the major players in European international affairs at the turn of the 20th century. She first examines individual European countries and their relationships with each other, starting with England and Germany and moving on to France, Russia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She then explores the thinking of people in various countries and how they started planning for war, before turning to a variety of crises that preceded the outbreak of war in 1914, including those in Morocco (twice), Bosnia, and the first Balkan crisis.

She examines why and how Europe was able to avoid war during each of the crises leading up to Archduke Franz Ferdinand's assassination. She provides an account of the alliances formed, the development of war plans years ahead of time, the build-up of naval forces, the arms race, the divergent political views, the increased importance of the oil fields in the Middle East, the impact of nationalism and imperialism, and the growth of Socialism and the peace movement.

The First World War killed millions of people, destroyed four empires and redrew the map of Europe and the Middle East. After the events of Sarajevo MacMillan believes the leaders, and the countries, made a choice for war, and that is what she tries to prove in this book.

- *Bill Donovan*



A new volunteer showed up at the Library this summer: a tomato plant that took up residence inside the book sculpture! No word yet on its reading preferences...

**Special Gifts**

April through October 2014

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

Tracy Cate  
Adelaide Drubel  
Ellen & Joseph Frankoski  
Hargrave-Kerns Family  
Marilyn Schnaars  
Amy Zorn

-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

**Q&A:**  
**KATHY GOLDFINE,**  
**ASSISTANT TO THE**  
**DIRECTOR**



**When did you first start working at the Library and what did you do?**

My daughter Allison was born in 1988, and Allison and I came to the Library often, practically every day. It was very different back then—you were not allowed to make any noise in the children's room. We would check out a stack of books and read them on a bench in Memorial Park.

As a patron I got to know Ellen Frankoski and Linda Willner and was offered a part-time job when Allison was very young. I wanted to stay home with my daughter, so I declined. It wasn't until Allison was in middle school that another opportunity came up.

In September 2000 I came in to return books and Jane Folger interviewed me and offered me a job on the spot. I started out in the children's room ordering books and printing the cards for the card catalog. In 2001, Rowland Bennett, the Director at the time, offered me a salaried position.

**You are now Assistant to the Director. Tell us about your job.**

In 2009, Kathy Champion retired and I took her place as Assistant to the Director. I do the Library payroll, order all of the supplies for the Main and Hilton Branch Libraries, schedule all community meetings, oversee the finances, attend all of the Board of Trustee meetings, and coordinate all of the Board reports. I am the notary public at the Library and answer the phone in the administrative office.

Since I started working at the Library, I've worked under three Directors.

**What do you like best about working at the Library?**

I like the feeling of being needed, the camaraderie amongst the staff, and greeting the public every day. Now that I'm working in the administrative office, I do miss the little kids in the children's room.

**You've lived and worked in the same town for a long time. What is that like?**

The commute is fantastic and I enjoy seeing my neighbors at the Library. I've gotten to know the community very well.

**You were part of the first Brooklyn-to-Maplewood migration. How has the town changed since you first moved here?**

Drastically. When I moved here in 1984 Robert Grassmere was Mayor and the community was very transient. Many of my neighbors

were in the finance industry and lived here for only a couple of years. Now I don't see this as much, and there is a huge influx from my hometown, Brooklyn.

The town is a lot more cultural than when I first moved here. The other big difference is the vibrancy of the town. In 1984 everything was closed on Sundays. I wasn't used to this having moved from Brooklyn.

**What are you reading? What is the last book you read?**

I just finished *Someone* by Alice McDermott and *Diary of a Mad Diva* by Joan Rivers. I've started re-reading *Brooklyn Follies* by Paul Auster and have *Charming Billy* by Alice McDermott on my night stand.

I'm also engrossed in *Breaking Bad* and have checked out seasons 1-6 from the Library.

**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.



Some of the hard-working volunteer crew at the Spring 2014 Book Sale.



JOIN OR RENEW



A 501(c)(3) organization

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 2015, 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 2015:
- Individual - \$15
  - Family - \$20
  - Contributing - \$25
  - Special Gift - \$\_\_\_\_\_

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