



NEWSLETTER

President's Notes

The library has certainly been a “hopping” place with the transition to BCCLS, the Maplewood Ideas Festival (partially funded by Friends), monthly art and music receptions, and the many other programs offered for children, teens and adults. I hope you have had a chance to attend some of these events and to take advantage of the over 5 million items available to patrons through BCCLS.

Last year, through memberships, special gifts and lots of hard work on the part of our Book Sale volunteers, Friends were able to raise enough to once again fund \$22,000 in gifts to the library. The largest budgeted item this year is painting the Children's Room at the Main Library, together with new window treatments for that room as well as the staff work room; new windows are being installed in both rooms this summer. The combination of new windows, window treatments and painting will make quite an impact on this well-used area of the library.

Friends are also funding a Minecraft server for the teen area. Minecraft is a building program similar to LEGO, and this server will enable teens to work together on projects coordinated with local school curricula. Last year we funded the start of the library's first Video Game Collection, and this year will be adding to it. (As predicted by library staff, the addition of video games has led to an increase in teen book circulation!) Friends also will be funding the Museum Pass Program (for the Guggenheim, Montclair Art Museum, Morris Museum and Brooklyn Botanic Garden), more art and music receptions, a STEM math program at the Hilton Branch, plus more.

The election of members to the Friends' Board will take place at our Annual Meeting on April 21 (see the slate on page 6). Allan Hoffman, Maplewood resident and *Star-Ledger* technology writer, will be the guest speaker that night at 7.30 p.m. And our Spring Book Sale takes place April 26 and 27.

I hope to see you at both of these events!

-Laura Nial, President

SPRING BOOK SALE: APRIL 26 - 27

There's nothing quite like a good used-book sale! Because we've had so many generous donations, you're sure to find many “must haves” at the Friends of the Maplewood Library's Spring Book Sale.

The selection of books on science, history, art, music, spiritual, sports and hobbies, plus all types of fiction is overwhelming. (Your young readers will find plenty to spark their interest, too.) Of course, we also have lots of CDs, DVDs, etc.

- Saturday, April 26: 10 to 5
- Sunday,* April 27: 11 to 5 (fill a bag with books, etc., of your choice)

(*entry through back door by parking lot)

*- Laura Nial and Barbara Sanok,
Co-Chairs*



WE'VE BRANCHED OUT... WITH BCCLS!

Maplewood Library is the 75th library to join the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS —it's pronounced "buckles"), a consortium of libraries in northern New Jersey. As of March 12, our patrons now have access to the collections of all the member libraries. That's over 5 million items: books, eBooks, videos, music and more! If we don't have something you want, you can request it and it will be delivered to Maplewood in a matter of days. You can return borrowed items to any BCCLS library.

We are still members of ReBL, and you can continue to use your Maplewood Library card at participating ReBL libraries. And if that's not enough, you will have in-person borrowing privileges at 80 additional libraries in Morris, Middlesex, Passaic and other counties that participate in the Open Borrowing Program. Ask at the circulation desk about obtaining an Open Borrowing sticker. Interlibrary Loans (ILLs) are available for items outside the BCCLS system. (For instance, there are no college libraries in the consortium.) ILLs will still take a few weeks to arrive.

One important change is that our patrons must have their library card with them when checking out materials at Main Library or Hilton Branch. In essence, our patron base has gone from 18,000 cardholders to...600,000!

You can search the BCCLS website (www.bccls.org) and access your account 24/7. You can see what you have out, what you've requested, check your fines and renew your items. Downloadable audiobooks and eBooks are available free from the BCCLS website any time. An enhanced eBook selection is offered by eBCCLS, with eBooks and audiobooks from Overdrive and 3M Cloud Library, along with additional exciting digital reading and listening options.

BCCLS offers all sorts of fun stuff for patrons. The site's Book of the Day feature highlights a recommended book for your reading pleasure. BCCLSVisor provides great book lists and specially selected links for readers of all ages. You can join book clubs and discussion groups at other member libraries. Titles can be suggested for purchase through the BCCLS homepage. You can subscribe to electronic newsletters from participating member libraries. You can find books, movies and magazines in a selection of languages searchable in native vernacular.

Our databases have changed slightly. EBSCO, Infotrac, Proquest, Novelist, The Record and Historical New York Times are available at all BCCLS libraries, and some member libraries may offer additional databases. Through the BCCLS eSources, you have access to Career Cruising, which offers career and job-hunting tools. Search job postings and financial aid/scholarship resources and get help building a resume.

The Maplewood Library website remains the

same, but our catalog is now the BCCLS catalog. You can search by title, author or keyword, search for a certain format (like book on CD). You can broaden your search by using an asterisk in the search field, or narrow it with an advance keyword search or by selecting a limiting factor.

As always, Maplewood Library staff is here to help you every step of the way. We've been in training since last December. We may still be working out a few little kinks in our new system, but we're committed to making this transition as easy as possible for our patrons. If you need help finding something, learning to use the PAC (public access catalog), requesting a book from another library or, if you just have a question, simply step over to the Information desk!

-Joanne Beckerich, Adult Programming

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.

VIDEO GAMES @ THE LIBRARY

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library we have had the video game collection in place since August 2013. Initially, there were 25 games available to patrons at the Main Library, and we now have a total of 43 games circulating from both the Main Library and the Hilton Branch Teen Zones. The libraries have games available for the Wii, XBox 360 and Playstation 3 systems that are rated E (Everyone), E10+ (Everyone 10 and older) and T (Teen). Kids of all ages—and adults, too—are coming into both Teen Zones to browse the video game collections.

We often see a parent with one or two kids deciding whether it's time to check out *Cooking Mama* or *Lego Batman*. We have a number of parents who come looking for the games and see the Teen Zone for the first time. (One mom said, "Wow, I had no idea this teen area was back here! This is great.")

Some of the favorite games for the teens are *Just Dance 4*, *MineCraft*, *New Super Smash Bros. Brawl* and *Need For Speed: Most Wanted*.

We often hear discussions about the negative effects of gaming. However, an article in the *American Psychologist Journal* in January summarizes the studies that show the positive side of playing video games to give a more balanced perspective on gaming. This is especially important since video games have changed so much in the last 10 years. The games of today are much more complex, realistic and social in nature. The benefits include development of spatial skills, problem solving skills and creativity.

Please join me in thanking the Friends for funding an expansion of the video game collection in 2014.

-Irene Langlois, Head of Teen Services



A CENTURY AND BEYOND

On April 30, 2013, we celebrated the commencement of the Maplewood Memorial Library centennial with a fabulous birthday party. Since that time, we've had many wonderful events and exhibits including a centennial quiz bowl, a centennial exhibit and talk, and the Death in the Stacks fundraiser sponsored by the Library Foundation. With the support of the Friends of the Library, we culminated our centennial with the Maplewood Ideas Festival, celebrating the incredible talent and creativity within our community. The highlight of the festival was the presentation of the first annual Maplewood Literary Award to Maplewood native and legendary author Judith Viorst.

Maplewood is unique in claiming so many authors, journalists, filmmakers, musicians and artists. We look forward to celebrating our talented community at the annual Maplewood Ideas Festival for many years to come.

It is an exciting time at the Library, and we feel very fortunate to have a terrific Friends group supporting our programs, services and enhancements. This past year we were able to upgrade the WiFi at the Main Library, purchase new presentation equipment for the Hilton Branch Library, begin circulating video games and add many other innovations.

With over 940 people walking into our libraries every day, the contributions of the Friends of the

Library have had a tremendous impact on the entire Maplewood community. As we enter our next century, we look forward to working with our Friends as we continue to create a 21st-century library that reflects the tremendous beauty, diversity and intellect of our town.

-Sarah Lester, Director

Special Gifts

November 2013 through March 2014

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

Shlomo Antika
Lorraine Ashley
Nancy Schwartz & Sean Bailey
Rowland Bennett
Emily & Charles Bibbins
Margo & Andrew Brown
Karen Berger & Richard Bruning
Marcia Leonard & Tom Carlson
Judy & Dennis Cronin
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Miriam Rosenstein
Barbara Sanok
Sarah Lester & Chris Schabacker
Lillian Sperling
Shelley Sullivan
Marilyn & Wes White
Eleanor Winslow
Marcia & John Zweig

-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair



A WINTER OF MEMORIES

The first snow of the season always provoked the artist in me and my friends. After two hours of concentrated energy, we managed to leave behind a few snowmen and the start of a snow cave when we finally went in for supper. The cave was really the challenge of the season. It required a pretty healthy snowfall, and when we were successful, it was the last snow to melt away from the street.

Once, we actually had more snow than we could use on one, so we built two. The boy next door was the chief architect. He was very possessive about renting it out when we finally finished. One year the cave could hold three of us. We sat it in for a while; it was warm and friendly under that dome of snow. I remember watching from the living room window as the sun gradually melted our creation a little bit every day. Soon only the warm, friendly feeling was left. Sometimes in the summer we talked about our winter cave, especially on days when it was too hot to do anything else.

Luckily, a good snowfall still means a day off from school. Alas, not for me. Nevertheless, it still holds a special reward even beyond my fading memories. A glance from my kitchen window bears out the unique charm of a cold white blanket of snow. The snow, flake after flake, quietly transforms my back yard into a special place. Sound is muffled. The pulse of life seems at a dead stop. The stillness is refreshing.

I welcome spring with old memories, and I await new ones to come.

-Teresa G. Helmkamp

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

THE FUTURE OF BOOKS IN THE AGE OF GOOGLE GLASS

In this era of fast-paced and ever-changing technology, what is happening to books and, yes, even to reading? As guest speaker for the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Maplewood Library, Allan Hoffman, *Star Ledger* technology columnist and author, will talk about the ways technology is upending our long-held ideas about books, publishing and reading. The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, at the Main Library.

"We're seeing a revolution in the way people consume and create books," Mr. Hoffman says, citing developments such as Google Glass (Internet-connected glasses projecting a screen in your line of vision) and self-serve kiosks for printing books. Admittedly a lover of libraries and the printed book, he will focus on the way books and reading are being reinvented and rethought in our "screen-obsessed" lives.

A resident of Maplewood, Mr. Hoffman has been writing his column about the web, Internet culture and personal technology since 1995. As a freelance writer his work has appeared in scores of newspapers, magazines and online publications, and he has appeared on CNN, CSPAN and NPR's *All Things Considered*.

This talk is open to the public free of charge. A brief business session will be held, and an informal social hour will follow the program.

-Anne Smith, Program Chair



BOOK REVIEWS

***One Summer, America 1927*
by Bill Bryson**

Although it might sound a bit overblown, the summer of 1927 really did change the world. Charles Lindbergh, an unknown pilot at the time, became the first man to make a solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic in late May of that year. Al Jolson starred in the first widely distributed “talkie,” which brought vocals to the movie world for the first time and forever changed the entertainment business. It was the summer of the Great Mississippi Flood, the most destructive river flood in the history of the U.S., which flooded 27,000 square miles, resulting in the deaths of over 250 people across seven states and leaving hundreds of thousands more homeless. It was the summer when international banking authorities met and made decisions that led directly to the stock market collapse of 1929 and the Great Depression of the 1930s, and it was the summer that Babe Ruth began his quest for 60 home runs.

In *One Summer: America 1927*, Bill Bryson introduces us to the people and events that made it such a memorable and important summer. In addition to those mentioned above, we meet Henry Ford and learn about his odd and unsuccessful idea for securing a source of rubber for his automobile operations by trying to found “Fordlandia,” an industrial town in the Amazon rain forest in Brazil; and visit Italian anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti as they are set for execution. The book also includes detailed narratives of other notables who were prominent in the public eye that summer, including Al Capone, Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, Clara Bow, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover.

The book is organized into monthly sections, from May through September, meaning some of the stories are told over several chapters. Bryson weaves all of the summer’s stories together with the informative and amusing style that will be familiar to readers of his past works. Finally, he gives brief summaries of what happened after the summer of 1927 to each of the main characters, including Charles Lindbergh's fall from grace in the late 30s.

The summer of 1927 was the summer when America stepped out of the shadow of Europe, and Bryson gets us up close to the key events.

- *Bill Donovan*

***The Signature of All Things*
by Elizabeth Gilbert**

Elizabeth Gilbert’s *The Signature of All Things* is the story of Alma, the daughter of Henry Whittaker, who made his money in the quinine trade. Born in 1800 in Philadelphia, Alma inherits her father’s fortune, his brilliant mind and his passion for botany. Unfortunately, given the period in which she lives, coupled with her plain looks and her independent spirit, Alma seems destined to remain single in a world where women are expected to marry.

Despite the odds, she meets and falls in love with Ambrose Pierce, another botanist, but quite different from Alma. While she is the pure scientist, all fact and analysis, Ambrose is lyrical, spiritual and mystical. Alma’s life spans the 1800s and the early 1900s, and during the course of those many years, Gilbert gives the reader a vivid picture of the Age of Enlightenment, the Industrial Age and the dawn of Darwinism. Alma is a wonderful character, the age in which she lives is fascinating, and the book is chock-full of insights into humanity and nature.

-*Rae Paltiel*

Board Slate

The Friends of the Maplewood Library’s annual meeting and election of the 2014-2016 Board will take place on **Monday, April 21, 2014, 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 Martha Deephanphongs
- Treasurer Nancy Denholtz
- Executive Board Bernadette Albertson
- Emily Bibbins
- Donna D’Amato
- David Nial
- Barbara Sanok
- Anne Smith

Nominating Committee:
Donna D’Amato (chair), Rae Paltiel, Barbara Sanok

friends@maplewoodlibrary.org

Newsletter Editor: Brian Glaser

Q&A: BARBARA LAUB

Barbara Laub has been a reference librarian at Maplewood Memorial Library for 25 years, and has served as Head of Technology and Adult Services since 2009. During her tenure, Barbara has seen the library through many changes, from renovations and automating the catalog, to the library's transition to BCCLS. Amanda Eigen, Hilton Branch librarian and Media Coordinator, recently sat down with Barbara to ask her some questions:

Amanda Eigen: When did you decide to become a librarian and why?

Barbara Laub: I always loved to read, and I volunteered in the library in high school. I majored in Comparative Literature in college, but I never really had libraries in mind professionally until I was approaching my college graduation and had to decide how I was going to make a living. I'm a little older, and the truth is that when I was growing up no one told me that women could "be anything they wanted to be." I only knew of three careers for women: nurse, teacher or librarian. I didn't want to be a nurse or a teacher, so that only left one thing. Luckily, that one thing proved to be the perfect career for me. At the time it felt like a random decision, but now I know it was destiny!

AE: You've lived and worked in the same town for a long time. What's that like?

BL: I feel incredibly blessed to have spent much of my career working in my hometown library.

After several jobs in academic and business libraries, I took a break to stay home after giving birth to my second child. One day I rolled my baby stroller into the library and Rowland Bennett, the Library Director at the time, offered me a job. I was able to work part-time and raise my kids when they were little, gradually growing my job here as my children became more independent. Now my kids are grown and I am a department head. Maplewood Library combines a nurturing, supportive environment, close ties to the community and an opportunity to be continually challenged professionally and intellectually. I could not ask for more.

AE: Some people say the Internet and eBooks will (or have already) rendered libraries and librarians obsolete. They're surprised to hear how busy we are. How has Maplewood Memorial Library kept itself useful and essential?

BL: Our statistics tell the story—the library is busier than ever!

While much information and reading material is to be found online, that is no substitute for the role the library plays in the community. This is where parents bring their children to develop early-literacy skills that will help them grow into educated adults. This is where adults come to find help navigating the maze of information and new technologies. People come here to take part in interesting programs, or to do their work and use the free computers and WiFi. It's a place where you can feel a part of the community and see your

neighbors, but also have quiet time and just hang out—without having to buy a cup of coffee. There really isn't any other place like that. At Maplewood Library we always strive to keep up with the times and the latest technologies, but our essential role in the community remains unchanged.

AE: Maplewood Library recently joined BCCLS. What can you tell us about this?

BL: Maplewood is a town of creative, educated and intellectually curious people who love to read, listen to audiobooks and music, and watch movies. Maplewood Library has a fine collection of about 150,000 items. But with BCCLS, our patrons now have access to the 5 million-plus items in the collections of our 74 partner libraries. Most of the time, these items can be delivered within a week. Maplewood Library patrons can walk into any of our partner libraries and borrow at any time. Plus, we are now a part of New Jersey's Open Borrowing agreement, which allows our patrons to walk into 80 additional libraries in Morris, Passaic, Suffolk and parts of Middlesex counties and borrow as well.

AE: What do you like most about your work?

BL: I like helping our patrons discover what the library has to offer. I like solving problems and setting up new technologies. But most of all, I just love spending every day in an environment surrounded by books and the people who love them as much as I do.



Some of the hard-working volunteer crew at the Fall 2013 Book Sale.



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.