



# NEWSLETTER

## President's Notes

The third Maplewood Ideas Festival was a delightful few weeks of interesting programs and speakers. We are lucky to live in a community that is home to so many fascinating people. The Friends are very proud to be a sponsor of this exciting event.

Through successful book sales (along with membership dues and special gifts), Friends were able to fund a number of improvements and programs at the Library last year, with gifts that were spread amongst every area of the two buildings.

A major improvement was the re-upholstering of chairs at both Main and Hilton, which brightened up both spaces. With the addition of two lounge chairs and a new carpet, the Teen Zone became more inviting. The new wall-mounted display case in the adult reading area greatly enhanced the lovely artwork that fills it. The Art and Music and Museum Pass programs continue to provide the community with opportunities for artistic enrichment. And, as always, the 2015 summer children, teen and adult reading programs funded by Friends were a huge success.

Plans to renovate and improve the Library continue (see Library Director Sarah Lester's update on p. 2). Please check the Library website frequently to keep abreast of developments.

Our Annual Meeting and the election of the Friends' Board will take place on Monday, April 25 (see pages 2 and 4). The guest speaker at this meeting will

be Maplewood resident Jason Olaine, Director of Programming and Touring for Jazz at Lincoln Center.

A big "thank you" to the Board members for their continued dedication to Friends, and I hope to see you at both of our upcoming events—the Book Sale and the Annual Meeting.

-Laura Nial, President

## FALL BOOK SALE: APRIL 16 - 17

Looking for a copy of *Anna Karenina*? Need some gardening inspiration? Decided this is the year to get fit? Having problems getting your little one to sleep? Curious about astrology? Want to find some new recipes?

Books covering these subjects and much more await you at the Spring Sale. And the selection of DVDs and CDs is also quite impressive.

Don't miss this great opportunity!

- **Saturday, April 16: 10 - 5**
- **Sunday, April 17: 11 - 5**  
(Bag of Books Sale: entry through back door by parking lot only)

- Laura Nial and Barbara Sanok, Co-Chairs



**PLANNING FOR A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LIBRARY IN MAPLEWOOD**

The Maplewood Memorial Library Board of Trustees recently issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Architecture Services for a Conceptual Design for a 21st century library in Maplewood. The RFQ proposals will be evaluated this spring, and up to three firms will be invited to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) this summer.

The Building for the Future page on the Library website ([maplewoodlibrary.org/maplewood-library-building-for-the-future/](http://maplewoodlibrary.org/maplewood-library-building-for-the-future/)) is updated regularly and is a great way to find out the latest news on our plans to renovate and improve the Maplewood Memorial Library. We are lucky to have Friends President Laura Nial on the Library Building Committee, along with representatives from the Township, Library Board of Trustees and Library Foundation. Community input is integral to this process, and we look forward to hearing from the Library’s many Friends.

- Sarah Lester, Director

**ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER: ALL THAT JAZZ!**

At the Friends annual meeting on Monday, April 25, the guest speaker will be Jason Olaine, Director of Touring and Programming for Jazz at Lincoln Center.



With more than 25 years of experience in the world of creative music management and producing (and a professional musician himself), he has been associated with the Newport Jazz Festival and other major music festivals.

**LIBRARY READERS TOP TEN LISTS**

The CollectionHQ program gives us access to data about the use of our collections that we didn’t have before, and we can see which books were the most popular with our patrons in 2015. Here are the Top 10 lists for our adult collection:

**Top 10 Fiction—Main Library**

1. *The Girl on the Train*, by Paula Hawkins
2. *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr
3. *Go Set a Watchman*, by Harper Lee
4. *In the Unlikely Event*, by Judy Blume
5. *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd
6. *Gray Mountain*, by John Grisham
7. *The Boston Girl*, by Anita Diamant
8. *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah
9. *The Lowland*, by Jhumpa Lahiri
10. *Americanah*, by Chimamanda Adichie

**Top 10 Fiction—Hilton Branch**

1. *The Girl on the Train*, by Paula Hawkins
2. *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr
3. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
4. *A Spool of Blue Thread*, by Anne Tyler
5. *Leaving Time*, by Jodi Picoult
6. *Under the Knife*, by Tess Gerritsen
7. *The Burning Room*, by Michael Connelly
8. *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah
9. *A Hundred Pieces of Me*, by Lucy Dillon
10. *Big Little Lies*, by Liane Moriarty

And if that’s not enough, he is a Grammy award-winning record producer, too—earlier this year he produced the Grammy-nominated album *My Favorite Things*, performed by the 12-year-old jazz piano prodigy Joey Alexander.

Jason will tell us about some of his experiences and adventures in the exciting world of modern music, so join us for an evening that is sure to be both informative and entertaining.

The meeting will be in Memorial Hall starting at 7:30 pm. A brief business session and election of officers will precede the program, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

-Anne Smith, Program Chair

### MINECRAFT IN THE TEEN ZONE

In 2013, the Friends of the Library provided funding for MinecraftEdu server software and Minecraft accounts for the Teen Zone. This allowed teens to play the popular game without having to pay for an account. This was and still is particularly beneficial to teens who can't afford an account or have limited, or no, access to the Internet at home.

Minecraft is a digital version of classic block-building, where players create their own environments and go on adventures. Minecraft provides opportunities to collaborate, compete, strategize and communicate. The game also introduces obstacles to players who then have to devise creative solutions to overcome those obstacles.

The photo below was taken recently in the Teen Zone. Over two years after installation, Minecraft is as popular as ever at the Library. Thank you again to Friends for giving our teens the opportunity to learn and build cognitive skills while they are having fun!

*-Irene Langlois, Head of Teen Services*



### WHAT'S NEW AT HILTON BRANCH?

We have the generosity of the Friends to thank for the four beautifully re-covered chairs in the children's and teen rooms. The old upholstery was torn and stained from many years of hard use, and the new blue covers look wonderful! We are all very grateful.

The work room has needed a re-painting for months after some shelves were taken out to make room for the BCCLS materials we use every day. It was painted last month and it is now a pleasure to be back there working—it feels so clean and bright compared to the previous color.

Of course, the CreateSpace is *always* new. We have audio equipment, a workbench and much more that is being used weekly. And on March 19, we hosted our second annual New Jersey Maker's Day to introduce patrons to "making" in a big way.

With Suzanne Henning, our creative circulation person, moving on, we are happy to announce a new hire in the circulation department: Bashira Muhammad has started working on Mondays and filling in where needed.

And, of course, the Hilton Branch is always bringing in new books, new DVDs and new books on CD—stop by to see what's happening at Hilton!

*-Jennifer Burkholder, Hilton Branch Manager*





**RESOURCES FOR READERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT**

Reading is what the Library is all about, and in the Adult Department we are always looking for ways to make reading as fun and engaging as we can. If you like great books and great discussions, we offer two monthly book groups, both of which welcome new members at any time. The *American Classics Book Discussion* series, led by retired Rutgers professor Alice Crozier, examines some of the “great American novels,” provocative and often controversial titles that probe the questions of who we are and how we see each other. The *Read Around the World Book Club*, led by librarian Ina Rimpau, focuses on recent literature from countries around the globe.

If you’re looking for reading ideas, we’ve got some online resources to inspire you. Check out the Readers Place blog on our website at [maplewoodlibrary.org/readers/](http://maplewoodlibrary.org/readers/). It features a monthly column of book recommendations from Ina, along with links to some of the best websites for readers. BCCLS has a new webpage just for readers, BCCLS Discover ([discover.bccls.org/](http://discover.bccls.org/)), which is filled with author interviews and videos, reading lists, reviews and book club guides. Then there’s Novelist, a database designed to help connect readers with books they’ll love. A useful feature in Novelist is the “read-alikes”—you can plug in the name of a favorite author and find a listing of other authors who may appeal to you. Novelist can be found on our Research Databases webpage, [maplewoodlibrary.org/research-databases/](http://maplewoodlibrary.org/research-databases/).

Speaking of the Research Databases page, there are several excellent databases available there for the serious reader, including Gale Literature Resource Center, Literary Reference Center and Harold Bloom’s Literature (that last one is available by clicking the “Infobase Learning (Facts on File)” link). All contain in-depth author biographies, references and literary criticism, and can be accessed from home with your Library card.

As you all know, the Library’s membership in BCCLS has vastly expanded the number of books and other items you can obtain quickly and easily. If you don’t find what you want on the Maplewood Library’s shelves, just look the item up in the online catalog and click the “Place Request” button (or ask a staffer to place the request for you). If you want a

new or forthcoming book that you don’t see listed in the catalog, you can request it online through the BCCLS Suggestion Box. On the blue navigation bar, under “Library Info,” click the link to “Suggest a Title.” Your suggestion comes to Maplewood Library in the form of an email. If you prefer, you can fill out a Purchase Request card at the Information Desk. We take all patron requests very seriously, and more often than not will buy whatever book you request if it’s not already on order.

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

**Board**

The Friends of the Maplewood Library’s annual meeting and election of the 2016-2018 Board will take place on **Monday, April 25, 2016, 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
- Mimi Fogel
- David Nial
- Barbara Sanok
- Anne Smith

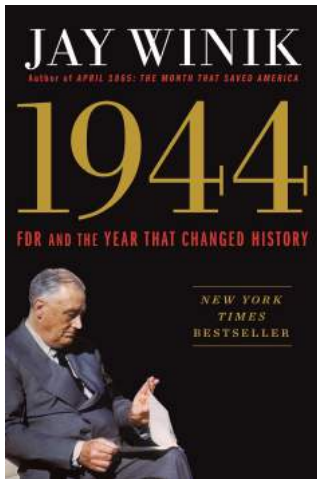
Nominating Committee:  
Donna D’Amato (chair), Rae Paltiel, Barbara Sanok

[friends@maplewoodlibrary.org](mailto:friends@maplewoodlibrary.org)  
Newsletter Editor: Brian Glaser

BOOK REVIEW

**1944: FDR and the Year that Changed History**  
by Jay Winik

In November, 1943, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin met to plan how to defeat Adolf Hitler’s Third Reich. In *1944: FDR and the Year that Changed History*, author Jay Winik discusses the events of that year and the actions taken as a result of that meeting, including the Allies’ invasion of France in June 1944. However, this book’s focus is on two other significant issues that were taking place as



the plans for the military victory were being put into effect: the Holocaust, including the failure of FDR and his administration to develop a timely response to what was happening to Europe’s Jewish population, and FDR’s decision to run for a fourth term in spite of his obviously deteriorating health.

While respectful to Roosevelt and his legacy, and while acknowledging many of Roosevelt's successes and strengths as president, Winik makes a strong case to show how FDR and many members in his State Department, in particular Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long, willfully obstructed the provision of aid and rescue to European Jews. As Winik makes clear through the stories of reports provided during the war from within Germany, as well as from actual escapees from Auschwitz, FDR and key members of his administration had enough evidence to know that something terrible was happening inside the Third Reich. There were many options discussed as possibilities to hamper the workings of the concentration camps, including bombing the camps and their railroad lines. Ultimately these options were rejected in favor of staying focused on “winning the war.” The creation of the War Refugee Board and the good work it did in terms of saving some lives is discussed, however always with the question of how many more lives

could have been saved with more aggressive action. The author points out that Abraham Lincoln had an "Emancipation Moment"—he made the Civil War about freeing the slaves despite knowing it would not be a popular move, even in the North. But FDR never had an "Emancipation Moment" and was certainly late to address “the vast humanitarian tragedy occurring in Nazi-controlled Europe.”

The book also shows that during most of 1944 President Roosevelt was a dying man. His health deteriorated quite rapidly during that year as he focused his efforts on reelection and winning the war. Winik spends several passages detailing the dying president's determination and resilience as he had to work overtime to orchestrate the war, make public appearances, appease his critics and work with Churchill and Stalin, who had their own agendas.

While the book is focused mainly on FDR and the Holocaust, Winik includes accounts of several key events including the Normandy landings, the Battle of the Bulge and the Eastern theater of war. The book also includes character portraits of the principal participants including Churchill, Harry Hopkins and Vyacheslav Molotov.

*1944* is a bracing and intriguing story about an inspiring president who led the Allies to victory, but missed opportunities to save countless lives.

-Bill Donovan

**BOOKBAGS!**

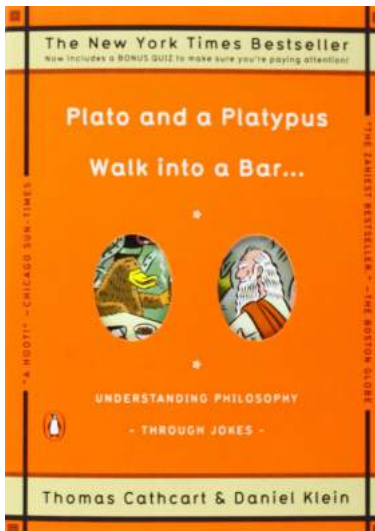
Did you know we have Friends of the Maplewood Library tote bags available for only \$3 each?

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

BOOK REVIEW

**Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar . . . Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein**

And now for something completely different: a humorous book about philosophy. If you have just finished reading *A Little Life* and have used up all the tissues in your home, check out *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar . . . Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes* by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein. You may not be able to thoroughly explain Descartes or Kant or Nietzsche or any other of the philosophers discussed when you’ve finished reading this book, but you will have a basic knowledge of them; and, more importantly, you will have laughed yourself silly on almost every page.



The authors review the various aspects of philosophy, and in clear terms analyze several philosophers’ approaches through the ages. The authors point out that philosophy is an attempt to understand the “meaning of it all,” but they note that “questions beget questions, and those questions beget

another whole generation of questions.” The book is arranged not chronologically, but by those questions a student might ask in that first philosophy class: “What is the meaning of it all? How can I be true to myself? Am I in the wrong classroom?”

Here’s an example of the authors’ take on ethics:

*Dimitri: I’ve been thinking about your question, what does ‘good’ mean and I’ve got the answer—‘good’ is acting on a just principle.*

*Tasso: By Zeus, Dimitri, you’re full of surprises. You’re starting to sound like a real*

*philosopher. Just one question: How do you determine just principles?*

*Dimitri: Du-uh! Just like everybody else, I learn them from my Mom.*

And here are the authors offering an example of the difference between inductive reasoning and deductive reasoning:

*Holmes and Watson are on a camping trip. In the middle of the night, Holmes wakes up and gives Dr. Watson a nudge. ‘Watson,’ he says, ‘look up in the sky and tell me what you see.’*

*‘I see millions of stars, Holmes,’ says Watson.*

*‘And what do you conclude from that, Watson?’*

*Watson thinks for a moment. ‘Well,’ he says, ‘astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meterologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I see that . . . we are small and insignificant. Uh, what does it tell you, Holmes?’*

*‘Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent!’*

The authors contend that philosophy and jokes are “made out of the same stuff. [They] flip our worlds upside down . . . and ferret out uncomfortable truths about life. What a philosopher calls an insight, the gagster calls a zinger.” This book will give you insights and laughs at the same time.

- *Rae Paltiel*

**TRIBUTES**

Friends’ Tribute Cards make wonderful gifts to honor a lover of books or the Library. Stop by the front desk at Main or Hilton for more info.

### KIDS' CREATIONS ON DISPLAY

What do Pez dispensers, British soccer and owls have in common? They're all items collected by local kids and displayed in the Children's Room Display Case. The display case (next to the Children's Circulation Desk) has been giving local kids an opportunity to display their collections since 1998.



The idea is that the entire display is done by the kids—kids make the signs, kids write a short bio describing their collection and kids arrange the items in the case. This hands-on, self-directed approach makes the whole experience a source of immense pride for the kids—for many, it is their first public display, and you can see them taking the time and care to make it one that really stands out.

Kids must sign up for a two-week slot to display their collection. Despite this short run time, the display case is booked almost three years in advance. (Yes, the next available slot, as of the time of this writing, is November 2018!)

Our recent Pez display, presented by two brothers who spent a great deal of time arranging the collection by theme, stirred up a lot of excitement. Some of our most recent Kids' Collection displays include: England/soccer memorabilia; Pez dispensers; bead creations; animal toys; Pokemon; LEGO creations; American Girl Dolls; sport and superhero art; duct-tape creations; Mooshka nesting dolls; Owls; "Why I Love Sleep-away Camp" artwork; nature pieces; and nutcrackers.

*-Jane Folger and Emily Witkowski, Children's Room*

### Special Gifts

November 2015 through March 2016

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

Shlomo Antika  
 Jeanne Bausmith  
 Emily Bibbins  
 Margo & Andrew Brown  
 Joan & Harvey Bucholtz  
 Treasure & Richard Cohen  
 Winnie, Bruce & Pamela Conley  
 Judy & Dennis Cronin  
 Alice Crozier  
 Michele F. Davis  
 Jim & Marge Dooley  
 The Dornam Foundation  
 Dorothy Engel  
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 Jim & Eileen Rolek  
 Sarah Lester & Chris Schabacker  
 The White Family  
 Eleanor Winslow  
 Stacy Zamudio  
 John & Marcia Zweig

*-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair*





The Main Library Dedication Ceremony in 1956.



**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 2016, 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 2016:

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

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

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

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

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