



NEWSLETTER

President's Notes

How can we encourage more of our neighbors to become Friends of the Maplewood Library? Maybe you can help us answer that question. Although Friends is visible through our annual book collections and sales, maybe few realize how much their support through membership means to those who work many hours to raise as much as possible to support our Library. The membership fee is quite small, but the encouragement it gives to our volunteers is incalculable.

In January, Friends held a one-day book sale and donated the \$800 raised to the Jersey City Free Public Library. Their Main Library had five-feet of water in its basement from Superstorm Sandy, which caused extensive damage to books stored there.

In September of 2012, a shipping container sailed off to Tanzania filled with used books, including many supplied by Friends through Edwin and Lydia Waluye of Maplewood. In February, the container finally arrived at Sullivan Provost Boys Secondary School, Mikongeni area, Kibaha, Coast Region. Friends received a lovely note of thanks from the school along with a photo of the students with the packed books and an article that appeared in a local newspaper. We are grateful to Edwin and Lydia for enabling us to be a part of this project and hope to continue our relationship with them.

Last year Friends funded an art hanging system at Main and presentation equipment for Memorial Hall, in addition to other projects. This year Friends will partially fund an upgrade to the Library WiFi system as well as presentation equipment for the Hilton Branch, plus much more. Your continued support through memberships, special gifts and book sale purchases makes it all possible. Thank you!

April is a busy month for Friends. The Spring Book Sale is April 27-28; the Annual Meeting with speaker Ulysses Dietz is April 29; and the Centennial Anniversary of the forming of the Maplewood Memorial Library is April 30. I hope you can participate!

-Laura Nial, President

**Time for our
Spring Book Sale!**



**Maplewood
Memorial
Library
51 Baker Street**

**Saturday, April 27 – 10 to 5
Sunday, April 28 – 11 to 5***
(*Bag Sale – enter back door by parking lot)

LOOKING FOR A GOOD READ?

You're in luck! Friends' Annual Spring Book Sale is just around the corner. As always, the community has been very generous and the donations to the sale are impressive. Cookbooks, biographies, history, classics, crafts, fiction, mystery, sci-fi, romance, children's, tweens – a seemingly endless selection awaits buyers. Of course, we'll also have DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, videos and vinyl records.

Friends consider the book sale to be a triple benefit to the community: providing everyone the opportunity to donate books to a good cause; offering the chance to purchase books at very low prices; and helping us to raise funds to support our Library. A win-win-win situation!

-Janice Pedalino and Laura Nial, Co-Chairs

**FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS – MAPLEWOOD
MEMORIAL LIBRARY CENTENNIAL 1913-2013**

In the spring of 1913, five prominent women including Mrs. F.F. Durand met in the home of Mrs. W.J. Morrison to discuss launching a public library in Maplewood. A public meeting was soon held and a resolution was passed forming the Maplewood Library Association. Its purpose was to find a way to circulate six hundred books in the small school library. The first meeting was held on April 30, 1913.

We hope you will join us on April 30, 2013 at 4pm to kick off our Library’s centennial celebrations with birthday cake at both the Main Library and Hilton Branch Library. Events will be held throughout the year including the Centennial Championships, a family-friendly game show sponsored by the Library Trustees on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 7 pm at Columbia High School, and a Centennial Library Gala this fall. With grant funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Open Space Trust Fund for Preservation, we plan to digitize 100 years of Maplewood newspapers, making them searchable from our website.

Over the past 100 years, the library has grown immensely. From six hundred books, our collection now has over 157,000 items. Close to 1,000 people visit the Library every day. The Friends of the Library-funded website had

347,000 visits last year. Friend’s support has not only helped us keep up with this growth, but also has allowed us to innovate and transform into a library reflective of the incredible community we serve.

-Sarah Lester, Director

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Every month the Library hosts great programs on topics like health, careers and small business and we offer many ways that you can keep up to date on our events. You can check out our website,

www.maplewoodlibrary.org, to view the Calendar of Events. Sign up for our e-newsletter and we’ll send you a monthly update. You can like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. And we offer a mobile app for smartphones, which also lets you search the catalog from the comfort of your couch or scan a barcode. And you can always count on finding our printed newsletter and program flyers whenever you visit the Library.

Many readers love eBooks and the Library provides a variety of titles. We continue to load titles on the Nooks, which were funded by Friends several years ago. Our eLibraryNJ service provides access to thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks you can download to your own devices. Because there can be long waits for bestsellers and new titles from eLibraryNJ, a service shared by close to 50 libraries, we now subscribe to the “Overdrive Advantage Program.” We buy extra copies of popular titles just for our patrons. If you find the wait too long for a particular eBook, email us at reference@maplewoodlibrary.org.

Friends has been helping us make improvements to our facility. We now use a professional art hanging system, a gift from Friends, to display our monthly exhibits of Maplewood’s talented artists. It makes the artwork easier to put up and take down, and the displays look much nicer.

-Barbara Laub, Head of Technical and Adult Services

**Save the Date for our
Annual Friends Meeting
Monday, April 29, 2013
at 7:30 pm
Featured Speaker: Ulysses Grant
Dietz, Senior Curator Newark
Museum**

TECHNOLOGY IN THE TEEN ZONE

In 2012, we purchased four iPads for the Main Library’s Teen Zone and one for the Hilton Teen Zone, courtesy of Friends of the Library. When the iPads were introduced in September, one teen commented, “These belong to the Library? Wow, they have lots of cool stuff!” The teens have since suggested apps, many of which we have now downloaded. One afternoon toward the end of November, there was a spontaneous move by the teens to play “Minecraft” on the iPads. “Minecraft” is

played through player-hosted servers that allow multiple players to interact and communicate with each other on a single world. Now, on a daily basis, we have four teens on the iPads and a few more on cell phones all playing together while verbally communicating with each other. Teens are running to the library each day to play. It's great to see!

We are grateful to Friends for the funds they recently granted to start a circulating collection of video games. Other towns' libraries have had new and returning teen library patrons when video games are included in their collection. They have also seen an increase in their Young Adult book circulation. And, according to studies by Daphne Bavelier, a professor of brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester, video gamers show real-world improvement on tests of attention, accuracy, vision and multitasking after playing certain titles. With this collection, we will join many New Jersey libraries, such as Princeton and Ridgewood, in featuring circulating games. We anticipate that not just teens but also families will enjoy the games.

-Irene Langlois, Young Adult Librarian

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Our 2013 Summer Reading Club is taking shape. Friends has generously supported this initiative for

many years, and has expanded funding to include activities for teens and adults.

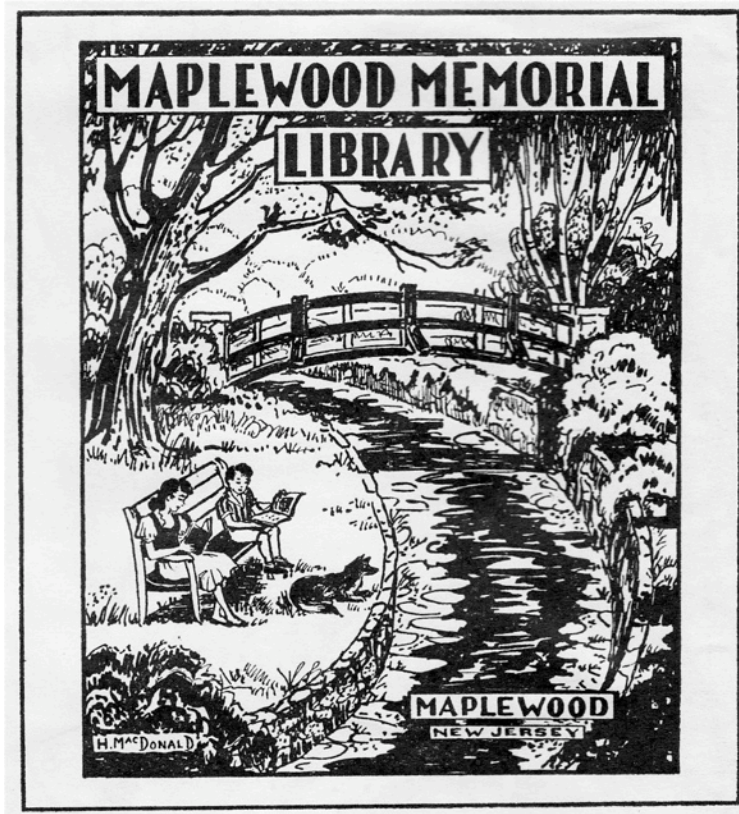
This summer we will be offering reading incentives and programs for all ages. Our themes include: Dig into Reading for children; Reading under the Radar for teens; and Groundbreaking Reads for adults.

These programs provide support and motivation for kids and teens to help them maintain their reading skills over the summer and achieve greater academic success. The whole family can find imaginative and family-friendly activities, as well as a welcoming place to read, think, and imagine.

Other Friends-funded programs include Hilton Branch's Writing Lab, which is still going strong. Each week we have a teacher or professional writer helping school-aged children with their writing skills. The projects include school work as well as writing for pleasure.

Without the financial support of Friends, we would not be able to offer the programs and incentives that keep Maplewood families happy and reading over the summer and throughout the year.

-Jane Folger, Children's Librarian



A vintage bookplate by H. MacDonald found in "Easter Treat" by Roger Duvoison.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Behind the doors of the offices of the Main Library, there are many staffers doing jobs that you might not know about. One such person is Karen Paradiso, Senior Librarian Assistant. Karen has been working at the library for 20 years and at one point both her

son and her daughter worked at the library as well. Karen performs many tasks in her position, all of them useful to the library and its patrons.

In addition to working at the Circulation Desk, Karen sends the e-mail and mail reminders and bills for overdue books. If a book is lost and paid for, she lets the librarians know so that they can replace the books. She also mends the damaged ones and returns those borrowed through Infolink and ReBL.

Karen processes all the brand new books that fill hold requests for patrons and all of the new books for the children’s section. She also e-mails all the hold notices for books that have arrived. She’s the reason that if you put a book that is being processed on hold, you’ll get it in a matter of days. She also fills all the holds with books currently in the collection at Main. And she keeps an eye on which books are particularly popular for holds and notifies the reference librarians that they might want to buy more copies.

In addition to these busy jobs, Karen is the coordinator of the delivery service of books to the homebound. She travels to Winchester Gardens in Maplewood and The Top in South Orange to pick up and drop off books, sometimes several times per

week! She will also arrange delivery services for patrons temporarily unable to come to the library due to illness, etc. Karen has help from Ellie Winslow and Irene Vershinin, who delivers and picks up books at the Maplewood Senior Residents Building through this program. Karen says that making sure the seniors get access to reading material is her favorite part of the job.

-Susan Bottino

HILTON LIBRARY HOSTS HAITIAN FOCUS GROUP

Twenty people attended Maplewood Memorial Library's first focus group for the Haitian community on March 21, hosted by the Hilton Branch. Ina Rimpau, Manager of the Hilton Branch, and Sarah Lester, Library Director, led the discussion. Representatives from the SOMA Board of Education, Global SOMA and the Community Coalition on Race talked about their work; then attendees - who ranged in age from a Columbia High School student to seniors - were asked specific questions about their experiences and requests regarding library services.



Yarnbombing of The Cat in the Hat, The Lorax, and Green Eggs and Ham at Hilton Branch in honor of Dr. Seuss’ birthday in March