

## President's Notes

During the last year, Library Director Sarah Lester led Library Trustees, Library staff and myself on tours of a number of libraries in the Tri-state area. The purpose of these “field trips” was to experience and evaluate recent renovations to older libraries and some newly constructed ones. The libraries included were:

- Stapleton Library, Staten Island, renovation/addition to 1907 Carnegie Library
- Mariners Harbor, Staten Island, new NYPL branch
- Darien, Connecticut, new construction
- Ridgefield, Connecticut, renovation/addition to 1903 building
- Washington Heights, Manhattan, renovation to 1914 building
- Hamilton Grange, Manhattan, renovation to 1907 Carnegie Library
- Kingsbridge, Bronx, new construction replacing 1923 building

Technology and the space it occupies are among the driving forces behind the need for library building upgrades. The need to offer more services to teenage patrons is another. And, of course, there is the continuing need for a library to act as a community center with spaces for reading, quiet study and events.

Each of these renovated buildings offered a unique perspective on how to provide for the current and future needs of libraries—Darien’s “old-fashioned” reading room and digital media lab; Hamilton Grange’s innovative teen space; Kingsbridge’s abundant natural light and auditorium.



Library Director Lester’s goal is to remake the Maplewood Memorial Library into a 21st century facility—accessible, inspiring and technologically advanced—that will welcome all visitors. Currently, close to 1,000 people walk through the doors of our Library every day.

With the needs of the Library’s future in mind, I have a simple request: Please renew your Friends membership, and if you are not a member, we would love to have you join us.

*-Laura Nial, President*

## FALL BOOK SALE: NOVEMBER 21 - 22

Can we *really* sort through *all* those books?

This is the BIG question the Book Sale Committee asks itself over and over again. Your generous donations test our resolve, but we are determined to answer: “Yes, We Can!”

Now that the Committee has done its job, we need your help to find new homes for all those great novels, mysteries, children’s books, cookbooks, DVDs, CDs, etc., etc., etc.

Come to the Fall Book Sale, see what treasures you can find at prices that can’t be beat, and help Friends support the Library.

• **Saturday, November 21: 10 - 5**

• **Sunday, November 22: 11 - 5**  
(Bag of Books Sale: entry through back door by parking lot only)

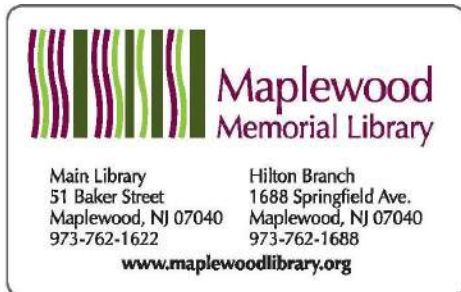
*- Laura Nial and Bernadette Albertson, Co-Chairs*

(Image: Pile of Books © Jorge Royan, via Wikimedia Commons.)

## THE VALUE OF YOUR LIBRARY CARD

In a town of 23,867 residents, there are 19,594 Maplewood Library cardholders. That's 83.3% of the population—and 20% higher than the national average.

As we continue to add digital resources and innovative collections, the value of a Maplewood Library card keeps increasing. You can now use your library card to download e-books, stream movies, check out digital magazines, access databases, and print from our 3D printer. Our programs are equally diverse: in



one week alone, over 40 seniors gathered for a screening and discussion of a film on speed dating for seniors, a group of high school students learned strategies for taking the SAT math test, 16 adults met to discuss Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* and Toni Morrison's essay *Romancing the Shadow*, over 50 children and their caregivers danced and sang with Wilma and the Wingers, a group of Maplewood makers met in the Create Space at Hilton to collaborate on building a 3D printer out of recycled computer parts, and regularly scheduled preschool story times brought the love of reading and books to our smallest patrons.

Libraries are the ultimate shared service. Library users share ideas, materials, digital resources and community space. The Friends of the Library have a long-standing tradition of supporting this shared service. With our programs, collections and services stronger than ever, we are now focusing on our physical space. As we plan for a Library of the 21st century, we are grateful for the support of our Friends of the Maplewood Library.

- Sarah Lester, Director

## EVERY HERO HAS A STORY

Thanks to the Friends for sponsoring another very successful summer of programs for children and families. This summer's theme was "Every Hero Has a Story" and featured 103 programs, such as Field Station Dinosaurs, The Franklin Institute's Traveling Science Show, Family Science workshops, Lego Ice Excavation, and many other exciting activities.

Approximately 1,400 children were enticed to join the reading incentive program, and they read for over 13,000 hours collectively. The importance of our summer program cannot be overstated: it creates enthusiastic readers and curious citizens who become life-long Library users. Play and family learning are the key elements, and we could not offer programs of this scope without the very generous support of the Friends. Thank you!

- Jane Folger, Emily Witkowski, and Jennifer Burkholder—Children's Librarians



### TEEN ZONE GETS A FRESH LOOK

Every afternoon around 3 pm, 30 to 40 middle school and high school students come into the Library. Some of the many reasons teens come through our doors are to do homework, play computer games, read, check out books, be with their friends or wait for a ride home. Like clockwork the Teen Zone seating fills up and the students overflow into the nonfiction stacks and the adult section.



Thanks to the Friends of the Library we have been able to refresh and increase the seating in the Teen Zone. The Friends also funded the replacement of a very well-worn rug that helps define the comfortable seating area. The Teen Zone is now much more cozy and inviting!

*-Irene Langlois, Head of Teen Services*

### FIRST ANNUAL CREATE CAMP

Throughout July and into early August, Create Camp programs took place in the Library's makerspace, the Hilton Branch's Create Space, and at the Main Library. Programming for kids ages 8 to 18 years included low-tech projects like "Bling a Vase," making bracelets out of belts and building a pirate ship out of newspaper.

In the Create Space teens built homemade telegraph transmitters, LED flashlights from Altoids mint tins and BrushBots (mini robots made with toothbrush heads). The teens not only learned about circuitry but learned to solder and use hand tools. Each week the camp provided four or five programs with STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) components to kids and teens. We also had instructors come in to teach 3D CAD modeling and coding. Artist/educator Mansa Mussa's "iPadology" program taught teens how to use apps on iPads to take and edit photos and create digital collages.

The Create Camp was designated as a Maker Camp Affiliate, an initiative sponsored by Maker Media. All of this was possible thanks to the Friends of the Library.

*-Irene Langlois, Head of Teen Services*

### BOW WOW BOOK BUDDIES AT HILTON

For the past few years, Hilton Branch has been hosting a series of therapy dogs who come to the Library once a month for "Bow Wow Book Buddies." The dogs are paired up with a child who reads to the dog, the ultimate nonjudgmental listener. Parents are thrilled with the program, sometimes saying that it is the only time that they get to hear their child read out loud. We have had loyal children who have been coming for years—and we get to see their reading getting better and better.

The program was started as the public service project of a bar mitzvah, and we have continued after the children were through with their project. We have been very lucky to have a series of wonderful dogs and owners who volunteer and seem to enjoy the whole experience. Since they are therapy dogs, any child who has any hesitancy with dogs is reassured by how calm they are. So it really is a double hit: reading improves and fears are reduced. We could not do it without our Bow Wow Book Buddies: Sammy, Misha, Bella, Lola, Ikon, and Charlotte.



*-Jennifer Burkholder, Hilton Branch Manager*

**WHAT'S NEW IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT?**

Summer and fall have brought some interesting new library services and programs. We continue to bring Maplewood history alive with our Maplewood Real Estate File, now available online. Back in the 1990s a local realtor donated her files to the library. They contained historic photos and sales listings of almost every home in Maplewood. Now you can view these files at our Digital Archive, [www.digifind-it.com/maplewoodlibrarydigitalarchive/home.php](http://www.digifind-it.com/maplewoodlibrarydigitalarchive/home.php). Take a look and see what your house used to look like—and what previous owners may have paid for it. Our Digital Archive also contains 100 years of the *News-Record* (this can only be searched on-site at the Library) and images of the library's history, including a display on the history of the Friends of the Library.

We hope you enjoyed our “Escape the Ordinary” Summer Reading Club for Adults (sponsored by the Friends, as always). This fall saw the launch of our American Classics Book discussion series, led by retired Rutgers professor and Maplewood resident Alice Crozier. With monthly meetings on Thursday nights, this discussion group will work its way through the canon of great American literature, exploring provocative and often controversial titles that probe the questions of who we are and how we see each other. You can join the group at any time; books are available via BCCLS, and a Readers Guide is available at the Main Library’s circulation desk.

Are you a gardener? The library now offers a Seed Library, an opportunity to donate seeds you save from your own garden this fall and “borrow” seeds donated by your neighbors when planting time comes around again. The Seed Library cabinet is at the Main Library near the new DVD display.

We never neglect high tech! Library users have been asking us if they can use the Library’s printers from their laptops, iPads and phones. Now they can, using our new wireless printing service. This service even allows you to send print jobs from home to the Library’s printers. Visit [www.maplewoodlibrary.org/wireless-printing](http://www.maplewoodlibrary.org/wireless-printing) for more information (printing fees apply).

Many of our library patrons need to study for tests, be they high school students studying for the SAT, adults preparing for civil service tests, or individuals working towards their GED. We have two new Test Prep databases to offer: ePrep, which offers online courses to prepare for all the major college entrance exams; and BenchPrep, which offers online preparation for just about any other kind of test for students and others seeking to advance their education or careers.

Despite all these new services and resources, reading remains the core of what the Library is about. We always want to offer an attractive space where you will want to linger, relax, and maybe pick up a book or magazine. But the easy chairs in our Reading Room, now 15 years old, were looking quite dowdy. Friends to the rescue! With funding from the Friends, we were able to reupholster the chairs this summer, and our space is now much brighter and more welcoming. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for your ongoing support of so many library projects and activities!

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

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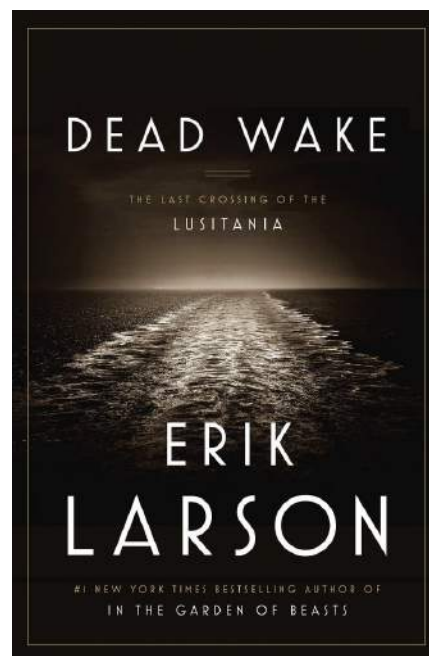
## BOOK REVIEW

***Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania***  
by Erik Larsen

More than 100 years ago—on May 7, 1915—without warning a German submarine deliberately targeted and torpedoed the British passenger liner *Lusitania* en route from New York to Liverpool, which went down in minutes with a loss of nearly 1,200 lives, including 121 Americans. This was a clear violation of international law and norms, and it provoked international outrage, especially in the United States. Although the sinking led to a formal protest by the U.S., a stubbornly neutral America did not declare war on Germany for another two years.

In *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*, Erik Larsen discusses the events that lead up to the sinking of the *Lusitania*. We learn about some of the passengers and the crew who would take that fateful cruise across the Atlantic. Larsen describes the warning given by the Germans regarding the waters they considered to be a “zone of war.” Interestingly, Britain had the advantage of its top secret “Room 40,” by which they were able to crack the code and read the Germans’ communications. From Larsen’s perspective, the information gained clearly should have led to increased safeguards for the doomed ocean liner. The English Admiralty knew there was an active submarine in the area through which the *Lusitania* would pass, which had sunk several other vessels in the days before the disaster.

Cunard Lines, the owner of the *Lusitania*, expected the British navy to provide an escort. Larsen explores the possible motives the British had for not providing the escort. Did the British admiralty fail to provide any protection or information due to a desire to not risk revealing they had broken the German code? Was it an effort to bring the U.S. into the war? Of course the ultimate blame rests fully on the Germans: the U-Boat commander Walther Schwieger could not possibly have mistaken the distinctive size, speed, and four-funnel shape of the *Lusitania* for any other ship. Although he later expressed regret for his actions, the telegraph messages he sent immediately afterward and Germany’s joyous reaction tell a different story.



The heart of this story involves the people who were on the liner for that cruise. Some of the passengers were well known, such as Charles Frohman, a theater impresario; Alfred Vanderbilt, son of Cornelius; Charles Lauriat, a book dealer carrying Charles Dickens’s original *A Christmas Carol* and original drawings from William Makepeace Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair*; and Theodate Pope, a wealthy female architect and suffragist. We meet these people, and many more, throughout the book. Although the “ending” is known before we start reading, discovering the fate of the people we meet keeps the pages turning. Were they lucky enough to survive the torpedoing and remarkably fast sinking (approximately 20 minutes after the torpedo hit)? Or were they among the 1,200 unfortunates who lost their lives? This is excellent history, which, at times, reads like a suspense novel.

-Bill Donovan

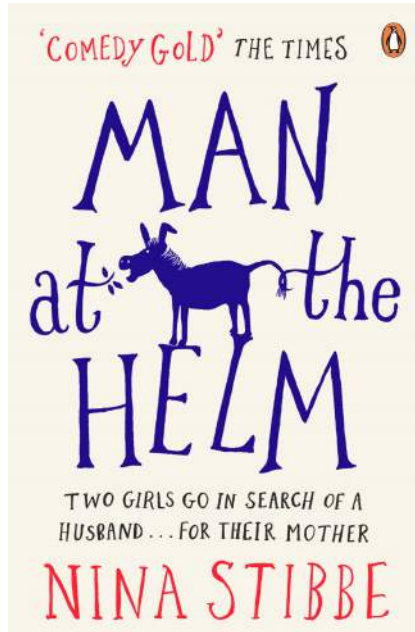
### TRIBUTES

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.

BOOK REVIEW

**Man at the Helm**  
by Nina Stibbe

*Man at the Helm*, a debut novel by Nina Stibbe, takes a light heartened, often funny, approach to some serious issues. The story takes place in England in 1970. The narrator of the novel is Lizzie Vogel, a nine-year-old girl whose parents get divorced in the beginning of the story. The father leaves the



household and establishes another family, leaving Lizzie's mother in financial difficulty and forcing her and the three children (Lizzie, her older sister and younger brother) to leave their large house and move to a cottage in a small English town, where divorce is frowned upon.

Lizzie soon realizes, "If a lone female is left, especially if divorced, without a man at the helm, all the friends and family and acquaintances run away." Her mother is ostracized by the villagers and soon becomes more despondent and dependent on alcohol and tranquilizers. Lizzie and her sister decide to rectify the situation by finding a man to take the helm. Although some of the men in the village are clearly unavailable, Lizzie and her sister are undaunted (their brother Jack is too young to assist them in a meaningful way).

They create a Man List and proceed to contact each man on the list, pretending to be their mother, in the hopes of finding a match for Mom. Lizzie and her sister would like a man who is handsome and rich; their brother would like someone who has an interest in owls and Romans.

The ensuing dates with these potential men turn out to be disastrous, but rather than cringe, I was enchanted by Lizzie's take on the men and laughed out loud at these misadventures. The author manages to make the mother sympathetic despite her having given up on her parenting role, and although Lizzie is naïve in her plan to help her mother, she is portrayed as wise beyond her years. This is a sweet and enjoyable book with a lot to say about relationships.

-Rae Paltiel

**Special Gifts**

April through October 2015

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

- Lorraine Ashley & Scott Ashley
- Peter Barnett
- Elizabeth Benedict
- Rowland F. Bennett
- Georgette Sullivan-Bauman & Drew Bauman
- Adelaide Drubel
- Dorothy Engel
- Mimi Fogel
- Jane Folger
- Ellen & Joseph Frankoski
- William Kemps
- Irene Langlois
- Ellen Relkin & Alan Rojer
- Aleza & Joe Rosenberg
- Gale & Max Weisenfeld
- Sheila Wolfinger
- Nick Illsley & Stacey Zamudio

-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

## IN THE RIGHT PLACE: JOANNE BECKERICH

Do you ever ask yourself, “Am I in the right place?” At the Maplewood Library, I feel like I am. I’ve enjoyed past careers doing display and exhibit design, managing a health food store, doing landscape design and—best of all—raising a son. I started at the Library in 2005, when said son (now 21) was just starting middle school. Aside from my garden, the Library was one of my favorite places to be—so when it was time to try something new, I knew what the next step in my career should be.

My role here is manifold—really I should say *roles*—which keeps me busy and keeps things interesting. As Adult Programming Coordinator, I line up a diverse set of programs for adults of all ages, some educational or informative, others entertaining and fun. I schedule our monthly art exhibits and the Art & Music Receptions, and run the Adult Summer Reading Club. (The Friends funded the art hanging system and display case, and they underwrite the summer reading program.)

I also do publicity for all the Library departments. This involves flyers, the electronic newsletter, newspapers, online outlets, social media, and occasionally showing up unannounced at other groups’ meetings around town, Library

flyers at the ready. I also market our collections with the monthly book displays you see at Main Library.

I have regular shifts on the Information Desk, which allows me to interact with the public. Besides helping people find books or format their documents, I occasionally have an opportunity to provide help that really makes a difference in someone’s life: locating an agency to help an



elderly parent, or finding directions to a doctor’s office or the nearest AA meeting. One Saturday I was thrilled that I was able to direct someone to a place to adopt a kitten, and she and her ecstatic little girl came back to thank me!

Just to make things more interesting, I also oversee the Periodicals Department, managing

125 or so subscriptions and holdings, and oversee the (Friends-funded) Museum Pass program.

Some of the more challenging but satisfying projects I’ve been involved with are the Library’s Strategic Plans and the Ideas Festivals. We’ve started planning for the 2016 Festival, and the lineup is looking great. It’s fun to see a project like this through from the planning stage to its (exhausting) completion, and wonderful to see how broadly the Library reaches out to and unites our community.

Outside the library, I’m involved with the Maplewood Garden Club and 1978 Arts Center. I like to pursue new interests and learn about new things. Lately I’ve become fascinated with books on knot tying, I’m curious about Buddhism, and who knows what else will catch my attention? It’s a good thing I’m in the right place!

*-Joanne Beckerich, Adult  
Programming Coordinator*

### 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.



**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 - \$\_\_\_\_\_

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