

President's Notes

As the saying goes, "Change is the only constant in life." Some changes offer the vision of a better future, others force us to say goodbye. The Maplewood Library is in the midst of moving forward into an exciting future. The library is also experiencing some sad goodbyes.

Plans for building a "Library for the 21st Century" are well on their way. One goal is to expand the view of Memorial Park from the library. In the spring, 39 architectural firms submitted a Request for Qualifications—an astounding number! Ten firms were selected and interviewed. From those 10, three firms were asked to submit a Request for Proposal for a conceptual design: 1100 Architect, BKSK Architects, and Sage and Coombe. The Library Board of Trustees and the Library Building Committee interviewed those three firms in late September. The Trustees' final decision will probably be announced before you receive this newsletter. Please check the library website ("Building for the Future," in the right column) for updates.

By the end of 2016, the library staff will have undergone some crucial changes:

- This summer Sandy Holtz, Technical Services Librarian, retired and began a new adventure in Virginia.
- Recently Donita Brown, Senior Library Assistant who handled periodicals, resigned for health reasons.

- At the end of the year Jennifer Burkholder, Hilton Branch Head, Children's Librarian and able leader, will be retiring.

- Lastly, long-time library stalwart Sue Prusinowski, Head of Circulation, will begin a well-deserved retirement at the end of December.

Friends wish all of them a very fond farewell. Their smiling faces will be greatly missed.

-Laura Nial, President



FALL BOOK SALE: NOVEMBER 19-20

Once again, Friends are inundated with lots and lots of great books. Because the sale depends on donations, every one has a character of its own.

This fall our bounty of beautiful cookbooks is outstanding. Science, Art, Music, History, Biography—all of these

categories are overflowing, and all of the other genres are well-represented, too. There is a nice collection of CDs, DVDs and audiobooks as well. Great books and great bargains!

- **Saturday, November 19: 10 - 5**

- **Sunday, November 20: 11 - 5**

(Bag of Books Sale: entry through back door by parking lot only.)

- Laura Nial and Bernadette Albertson, Co-Chairs

19,878 OF YOUR NEIGHBORS HAVE A LIBRARY CARD—DO YOU?

Did you know that 19,878 of your neighbors have a Maplewood Library Card? That’s 83% of Maplewood residents!

The library is often the first stop for new people moving into town, and we issue over 100 new library cards every month. This September we made an extra push during Library Card Sign-up Month and welcomed close to 200 new cardholders. Our billboard at the Maplewood train station was hard to miss, and the parade and celebration for Olympian Ibtihaj Muhammad brought hundreds more to the Hilton Branch Library and Main Library on September 10. We couldn’t be prouder to count Ibtihaj Muhammad as one of our cardholders.

The Friends of the Library continue to add tremendous value to a Maplewood Library Card by enhancing our programs and services. We are so grateful for this support—as are close to 20,000 Maplewood residents, who rely on their library cards.

- Sarah Lester, Director

THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE HILTON BRANCH

The first session of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes ended in September. The class gave their teacher Jazmeet a plaque saying that she is “the best teacher they could ever have.” Registration began immediately for the October start of the next group of ESOL classes. The classes have been a tremendous success and benefit to our patrons, in no small part made possible by Amanda Eigen, Adult Services Librarian.

With school back in session, the rhythm of the library changes...things really speed up after 3 o’clock. And now that the Hilton Branch is open again on Saturdays *and* Sundays, families are able to use us throughout the weekends.

We partnered with Clinton Elementary School to celebrate International Dot Week, based on a book by Peter Reynolds. Children decorated their own dots to express creativity and individuality. A group of Seth Boyden 4th graders walked to the library, got library cards to celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month, heard some poetry and checked out books. A good start to the school year.

-Jennifer Burkholder, Hilton Branch Head



SECOND ANNUAL CREATE CAMP A BIG HIT

Create Camp 2016 was a great success! We had more than 100 teens, kids and adults participating in Create Camp projects. The adults not only helped their kids—they also fully participated themselves, making paper planes and building crystal radios.



The camp gave kids and teens the opportunity to dive into principles of science, technology, engineering, art and math through fun and engaging projects. The projects were planned to suit a broad range of kid and teen interests.

We also had a village of instructors to oversee the camp projects. Library staff members Robert Nealon, Robyn Whalen (with her husband Mike) and myself taught programs such as melted crayon art, paper circuit speakers, sewing with conductive thread, building a crystal radio, balsa wood bridges and motorized paper airplanes. Chef Jesse showed how to make pasta from scratch along with Asian spring rolls. It was a great way to incorporate math (measuring) and chemistry into a fun and tasty projects! Aileen Nicoletti, Achieve S.T.E.A.M. chairperson, instructed kids on making cloud trolleys, bean shooters and carnival game targets.

Parents were assisting their kids and others, and they all brought their expertise. Paul Gaykowski, a regular at children’s programming with his son and

daughter, and the Maker MeetUp team were a big help in setting up the antenna for the crystal radios. The kids and teens were able to hear the Mets game on their radios! We’re used to parents helping kids with projects, but the level of their engagement with the Create Camp projects was wonderful.

Teen Summer Reading

More than 70 teens picked up a summer journal to complete at least 15 of the writing prompts, word puzzles and coloring sheets to be eligible to enter a raffle for a Kindle Fire HD8. A number of Maplewood teens worked on their journals throughout the summer and have brought them for me to see.

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for making Create Camp and the Teen Summer Journal programs possible.

-Irene Langlois, Head of Teen Services



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.

NOTES FROM THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

Maplewood Library is dedicated to providing you with entertainment, inspiration and learning opportunities inside the library buildings, at home and online.

For instance, have you heard about Hoopla? It's a new digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet or phone—and even on your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later.



There are hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from, with more being added daily. Follow the Hoopla link on the library website, or go to www.bccls.org/digital_collections/eBCCLS/movies.shtml.

Would you like to learn a new language? Patrons often come in asking for language courses on CD, and we have those—but did you know that we now have *two* online language learning programs that you can use on your computer, tablet or phone?



There's Mango Languages, which offers fun, interactive, step-by-step lessons for 71 languages. If you want help with your English, there are ESL lessons available for speakers of 15 different languages.

We also offer the Rosetta Stone program, which features an award-winning approach to teaching some 30 languages, also including English. Find these programs on our website, or go to www.maplewoodlibrary.org/learn-a-new-language/, or look for the apps in your device's app store or Google Play.



Inspiration is always waiting to be found at the library, but never more so than at our monthly Saturday afternoon Art & Music Receptions. Each month features an exhibition by one of our local artists—painters, photographers, textile artists, sculptors—and there's so much talent in this town! During a reception, the artist speaks about his or her creative process, and there is live music and refreshments.

(By the way, the picture-hanging system that makes these displays possible was funded by the Friends of the Library.)

The library provides a variety of programs each month catering to a wide array of interests. There are our two ongoing book clubs—American Classics II and Read Around the World. We are just starting up a new Yarn & Fiber Arts Group to meet once a month on Saturday mornings. If you knit, crochet, quilt, embroider or whatever, bring your project and enjoy skill-sharing and conversation with fellow crafters. Every month brings a new assortment of computer classes, film screenings, author presentations and informative presentations about your money, your health and your lifestyle. Subscribe to our e-newsletter, watch our website calendar and look for our posters and flyers to keep up with all the happenings at the library.

- Barbara Laub, Head of Technology and Adult Services

KATE MCCAFFREY: LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT

Kate McCaffrey was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees in 2010 by Mayor Vic DeLuca and has served as its president since 2014.

McCaffrey spent her early childhood in Ossining, New York, where the town library, even back in the 1970s, was already changing from a book repository to a community center. “I remember taking acting classes at the library and watching films there with my friends on Saturday afternoons,” she remembered. McCaffrey established herself in New Jersey in middle school when her family moved to Westfield. Long before Trader Joe’s arrived, McCaffrey rode her bicycle to Westfield High School as the sun rose over the A&P, just another teen tortured by early-morning classes.

McCaffrey and her husband, Howard Fischer, moved to Maplewood in 1997 where they raised two children who enjoyed getting their hands stamped at the children’s desk of the library. From their earliest days in Maplewood, the McCaffrey-Fischer family provided a steady stream of revenue to the library, as the stacks of children’s books they checked out often slipped behind mattresses and racked up impressive overdue fines that enriched the library’s coffers.



Although McCaffrey serves as the library president, she is more often seen operating as a courier to her commuter husband, who is a voracious reader with a never-ending shelf of books to be collected. With this fall’s Hoboken train crisis briefly extending his commute, he was

reading upward of three books a week, expanding McCaffrey’s workload. The upside of this arrangement is that he previews books for her so she can concentrate her attention on only the best novels; his most recent recommendation was *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout, a real gem.

Since McCaffrey joined the board, she has participated in the creation of the Library Foundation and served on the search committee that hired Library Director Sarah Lester. As Board of Trustees President, she is excited now to participate in the current push to build a 21st century library.

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET...READ!

The kids of Maplewood knocked it out of the park with this year’s Summer Reading Club. With over 1,400 kids registered and over 24,000 hours of reading, we saw many excited faces come through our doors.

The success of summer reading relies upon the Friends of the Library, whose generosity allows us to buy fun prizes that incentivize reading and writing, as well as put on awesome programs. This summer, we were able to offer over 85 programs in total for more than 5,000 kids. Families had their choice of programs ranging from dance and yoga to get children up and moving, to meeting wild animals in the library, to great STEAM-influenced hands-on learning opportunities.

This fall, we continue to offer STEAM programs like animation and robotics, along with our more traditional programs like storytime and Lego Club. We also welcomed author Doreen Cronin and illustrator Betsy Lewin, creators of *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* and *Diary of a Worm*, to present their new book *Click, Clack, Surprise!*

We’re grateful for the Friends’ continued support in helping us to provide quality programs for the families of Maplewood that help to encourage a love of words and community.

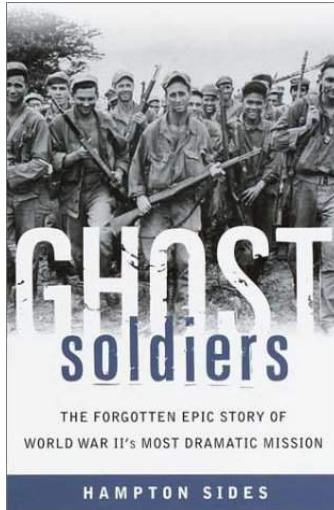
- Jane Folger, Emily Witkowski and Jennifer Burkholder, Children’s Librarians

BOOK REVIEWS

Ghost Soldiers
by Hampton Sides

Ghost Soldiers is an account of the Raid at Cabanatuan, Philippines in January 1945. This raid, conducted by army rangers, scouts and local Philippine guerrilla forces, was an attempt to rescue hundreds of American and other Allied soldiers held in the prison camp. Many of the prisoners were survivors of the Bataan Death March and had been held there for 30 months at the time of the raid. There was a fear that the surviving prisoners would be killed as the Americans advanced toward Manila, especially since there were confirmed reports of prisoners held in other camps being killed in previous weeks. The raid was intended to free the prisoners of the Cabanatuan camp before this could happen.

The book alternates between two stories. The main narrative is the attempt to liberate the camp. This part of the story focuses on the rangers who participated in the raid and the Philippine guerrillas who provided invaluable military support and logistical assistance. The book outlines the obstacles the raiders faced, including issues posed by the terrain, the challenges of moving approximately 500 sick and worn-out men several miles from the camp to safety, and how the actual raid itself would take place.



The other storyline is that of the Bataan Death March and life inside the prison camps for the men who survived the march. The description of conditions and activities at the camp is graphic and chilling. In addition to several personal stories that highlight the brutal conditions in which the prisoners lived, the book also spotlights the assistance prisoners received from local citizens (at great risk to the lives of those citizens).

Ghost Soldiers does great justice to the events and the men involved, with enough personal touches to bring their stories to life. The book pays homage to the brave men, American and Philippine, who risked their lives to save people who believed their nation had forgotten about them.

-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.

Special Gifts

April through October 2016

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

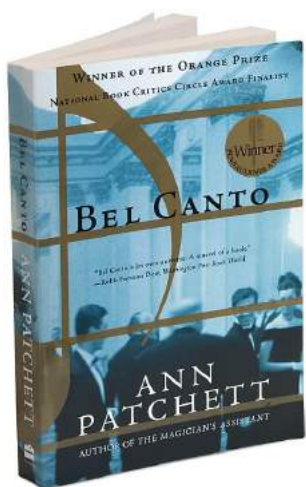
- Roni & Brian Bamforth
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- Paula Marchese
- Marilyn Schnaars
- Kathleen Wade
- The Woman's Club of Maplewood, Evening Membership Department

-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

BOOK REVIEWS

Bel Canto
by Ann Patchett

Ann Patchett’s most recent novel, *Commonwealth*, is now available, but I would recommend reading her earlier book, *Bel Canto*, a gem and her best work.



Bel Canto takes place in an unnamed South American country where a birthday celebration is underway. The guests are mainly important and well-to-do individuals from different parts of the world, working various fields and speaking different languages. The guest of honor is Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese

executive, and the entertainer for the evening is Roxanne Coss, a famous opera soprano.

Into this joyous, beautiful and otherworldly evening comes a group of terrorists who take all the guests as hostages. The stage is set for the harsh realities of the outside world to impinge on the dreamlike quality of the party. Although two very different worlds have collided, Patchett shows us their commonalities. Writing as the omniscient third-person narrator, Patchett enters the minds of the characters, revealing their desires and fears and their common love of music. As the hostage situation drags on, the differences between the characters ease and relationships form that the reader would not otherwise expect.

The novel is captivating and hard to put down, and *Bel Canto* invokes in the reader a gamut of emotions. The Italian phrase “bel canto” literally translates into “beautiful singing.” The same definition can be applied to Patchett’s novel.

-Rae Paltiel

The One-in-a-Million Boy
by Monica Wood

This is a heartwarming novel about Ona Vitkus, a 104-year-old woman and a lonely 11-year-old boy who is obsessed with world records. The boy, who remains unnamed throughout the book, is assigned to help Ona around her house and yard in order to earn a Boy Scout badge. The boy wants Ona to attain a world record as the oldest living person and the oldest licensed driver. Lists of world records are sprinkled throughout the book, adding a whimsical touch.

As you learn from the inside flap, when the boy dies suddenly, his father, Quinn, steps in to help Ona and see his son’s wishes through. Quinn, who is twice divorced from the boy’s mother, Belle, is an absent father, a musician who spends most of the time on the road.

The One-in-a Million Boy is a story of families, friendship, aging, secrets and second chances. Monica Wood creates endearing characters who will stay with you a long time.

- Nancy Denholtz

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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 2017, 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 2017:
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YES, I would like to help with Friends' Book Sales.