

President's Notes

Plans for building Maplewood's Library for the Future continue apace. The conceptual design was presented by Sage and Coombe Architects at a public meeting in late September. Those unable to attend can review the architects' renderings and the computer-generated virtual tour at the Main Library. Library Director Sarah Lester welcomes any comments and/or ideas you might have; contact her at slester@maplewoodlibrary.org and take this opportunity to join the discussion.

I am confident that, as you read this, New Jersey voters will have spoken and approved the Library Bond Construction Act so that \$125 million is now available for library construction and renovation projects. Next, the Township Committee will vote to go forward with the bonding for this project.

Funding, as always, is the big stumbling block that prevents us from achieving all of our dreams. The Building Committee and the architects have done their best to present a realistic budget.

The Library Foundation will be the main fundraiser for this project (contact the Foundation at maplewoodlibraryfoundation@gmail.com). Their first major event is "An Evening with Filmmaker Ken Burns," a discussion with Burns and South Orange resident and Harvard Professor Khalil Gibran Muhammad, on Saturday, December 9, 7:00 p.m., at Columbia High School. Check the back page of this newsletter and the library website for details.

In addition to funding library programs (summer reading, museum passes, etc.), Friends have been able to squirrel away \$30,000 so far in a capital fund to aid in realizing the creation of this beautiful new library. Friends are counting on your generous support—moral *and* monetary—to make this dream a reality.

-Laura Nial, President



FALL BOOK SALE: NOVEMBER 18-19

The rolling carts are full. Boxes are stacked 6 or 8 high everywhere. Who knew there were so many books on history, science, self-help? How many children's books can we box up? What to do with so many DVDs and CDs?

Of course, this means the Fall Book Sale is almost here! The many thousands of books that have been donated and sorted are now ready for you to

discover, take home, and enjoy. Friends hope to see you, your family, and friends leaving the sale loaded up with great books.

• **Saturday, November 18: 10 - 5**

• **Sunday, November 19: 11 - 5**

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

-Laura Nial and Bernadette Albertson, Co-Chairs

FROM THE DIRECTOR

There are so many exciting things happening at the library. Terrific programs are planned through the end of the year, wonderful new books and materials have been added to our collection, and Sage and Coombe Architects presented an incredible conceptual design for a 21st century library in Maplewood.

With close to 1,000 people walking through our doors every day, the staff of the Maplewood Library does an outstanding job. Our staff is experienced, knowledgeable, curious, community-oriented, and kind. And true to our library mission, our staff members are also lifelong learners who strive to improve services and innovate as we move toward the future.

The Friends of the Library have had a long tradition of supporting library staff and have generously offered scholarships for professional development. With Friends support, all librarians have the opportunity to attend the annual New Jersey Library Association Conference. This year alone, Friends support has also allowed our librarians to attend the Computers in Library Conference, the Book Expo Convention, the Young Adult Library Services Association Conference, and many statewide workshops and events, helping us to continue moving forward as we prepare to realize our vision.

We are so grateful for the strong support of the Friends of the Library and look forward to working with all of you as we build our library for this century and beyond.

-Sarah Lester, Director

BUILDING A COMMUNITY AND A COMMUNITY OF BUILDERS

Thanks to the Friends of the Library the Hilton Branch was abuzz with programs for all ages this summer. Approximately 166 children read over 156 hours at Hilton, and children came in weekly—in some cases daily—to read.

The kids were given a LEGO piece to add to their LEGO base plate for each 15 minutes of reading in the library. One 10-year-old girl read for half an hour or more to her father every day we

were open. She blazed through book after book, and after reading she would tell Children's Librarian Rachael Robson about what she had read that day as she painstakingly chose the perfect pieces for her LEGO castle.



Each week participants in the summer reading program received a different maker kit with the supplies to build the project of the week. The projects included a marshmallow/toothpick building, constructing a hoop glider and other fun STEM projects.

Community members of all ages came out to what might have been the first Hilton Branch barbecue. Chef Jesse Jones shared his recipe for his award-winning ribs. He cooked up ribs on the grill and served his delicious cornbread. It was a lovely evening to be outside, and many people stayed to talk with their neighbors long after the ribs were gone.

The third annual Create Camp, which is part of our summer reading programming, was also supported by Friends of the Library. Rachael and Teen Librarian Emily Witkowski kept preschool to high school kids busy with Maker Mondays, Tinker Thursdays, Electronic Origami, Pencil Sculptures, and more. The younger kids made butterfly kites, boats that float, travel tic-tac-toe boards, and more on Maker Mondays. Upper elementary-aged kids made LED art, sewed felt pencil cases, and built homopolar motors during Tinker Thursdays.

Everyone at Hilton thanks the Friends of the Library for being the library's *best* friends!

-Irene Langlois, Hilton Branch Head

KIDS BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

This summer over 1,100 kids set a 10-year record high with over 25,000 hours spent reading and writing with the library’s summer programs.

There was an exceptional richness to our programming this summer: constructing fidget spinners from bicycle chains, after-hours fort-making in the library, creating original animated shorts, learning how to sew, and a drive-in movie complete with cardboard “cars.” We focused on the summer’s theme, “Build a Better World,” with weekly service/ learning projects like writing cards for the homebound, making dog and cat toys for shelter animals, and picking up litter around the library. All of these events were well-attended and encouraged even the most reluctant readers to use their minds in a fun way while school was out.



With the Friends’ support, we were able to offer almost 90 programs that brought in over 2,600 children and just under 1,300 caregivers this summer.



This fall we’ve focused on community partnerships. Our first was a celebration of the picture book *Come With Me*, created by *New York Times* bestselling author and Maplewood resident Holly McGhee and Belgian illustrator Pascal LeMaitre. Village 2 Village United, the International Rescue Committee, Kids Books for a Better World, and Community Coalition on Race also participated in the event, which focused on teaching empathy and global awareness to children. Local band Preschool of Rock gave our families a rollicking good time with live music and dancing. We also partnered with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) to host Books on the Move, a program that featured the autobiographical picture book *Firebird* by Misty Copeland and a surprise ballet performance with choreography inspired by the story.

As we move further into the school year, we will continue to expand beyond our traditional programming with increased outreach efforts to local schools, bilingual story-times, and multicultural celebrations.

We extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Friend of Maplewood Library for their continued support, which enables us to do so much for our community.

-Jane Folger, Amalia E. Butler, and Rachael Robson, Children’s Librarians

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.

TEENS SKIP THE SUMMER SLIDE

During the summer of 2017, 40 teens registered for the Summer Reading Log and Raffle and accumulated over 300 raffle entries from reading books and articles, listening to podcasts, and writing in journals and on blogs. We had students registered from nearly every grade level, participating from both middle schools and the high school to make our summer reading raffle a huge success.

I knew it was a success when all four of our raffle winners excitedly claimed their prize within 24 hours! Reading not only helps students prevent the “summer slide” and learn to love independent reading, but it also builds empathy and understanding, and a quick glance at the titles read and extra credit reviews revealed how all of our participants grew over the summer.

We continued our partnership with the schools over the summer by assisting students in locating and selecting summer reading assignment books. We also visited the Hub’s summer program and made blankets for a local children’s hospital, and summer school classes visited the library to check out books and use our resources.

It was such a pleasure to have continued engagement from the schools beyond their regular school year!



In addition to the reading program, over 200 teens participated in three different types of events this summer. “Build a Better World” was an intergenerational volunteer opportunity in which kids, teens, and adults gathered to participate in activities like cleaning up garbage around the library and park grounds, making cat and dog toys for local animal shelters, and writing cards for homebound senior citizens. Teens also participated in the third annual Create Camp, during which they soldered, sewed, and engaged their creativity in so many ways.

One of our new partnerships was with Village 2 Village, a program bringing together teens from a mosque in Elizabeth with South Orange and Maplewood teens. For four weeks these teens would gather and participate in activities ranging from visiting an art museum, to going for a hike in the South Mountain Reservation, to learning how to paint portraits from a former Ideas Festival local artist. This was a wonderful opportunity to share resources and experiences that brought cultural understanding and empathy between kids who wouldn’t have interacted in another environment.

None of these programs would have been possible without the Friends of the Maplewood Library. Their generous funding purchased prizes that got our kids excited to read, purchased supplies to encourage kids to build and explore, and purchased snacks to keep them fed on long days of learning and making new friends. Thank you for all of your continued support!

-Emily Witkowski, Teen Librarian

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS

The library is constantly buying new books, movies and audiobooks, and these continue to be our most popular offerings for most of our patrons. But as more and more of modern life moves into the digital realm, the library is constantly enhancing its digital collections—and there have been some big changes to these digital collections.

Up until recently, we had been getting all of our e-books and e-audiobooks through BCCLS's Over Drive platform. In the spring, BCCLS moved its e-book collection from OverDrive to cloudLibrary.



cloudLibrary is a fine vendor, and most people continued to have a good digital reading and/or listening experience. However, cloudLibrary is not compatible with many of the most popular Kindle e-readers, and some of our patrons who are devoted to their Kindles found themselves out in the cold.

We decided that was not OK, so we joined up with another local library consortium, eLibraryNJ, to once again offer e-books and e-audiobooks from OverDrive to our members.

Maplewood Library cardholders now have the best of both worlds: two entirely different collections of the best e-books and e-audiobooks from both cloudLibrary and OverDrive. We also offer Indie eBooks, a collection of self-published books by local authors, through Biblioboard/Indie New Jersey.

Do you know about Hoopla? Hoopla is another great digital service that offers not only e-books and e-audiobooks, but also movies, TV, and music. We had access to Hoopla through BCCLS up until the end of September, when BCCLS discontinued the service due to budget issues.

Because Maplewood Library patrons love Hoopla, the library has picked up the subscription, but to keep it affordable we are restricting each patron to no more than five checkouts per month.



Our online magazine service Zinio also changed, but just its name. It is now known as RBDigital. Otherwise, it works the same as before and lets you read your favorite magazines in full color on your computer or any portable device.

All these digital collections can be found at our website, www.maplewoodlibrary.org, along with many other goodies like online language learning programs, research databases on every topic under the sun, and our digital archive of Maplewood history, containing 100 years of the *News-Record*, Maplewood Real Estate File, historic city directories, and Columbia High School yearbooks.

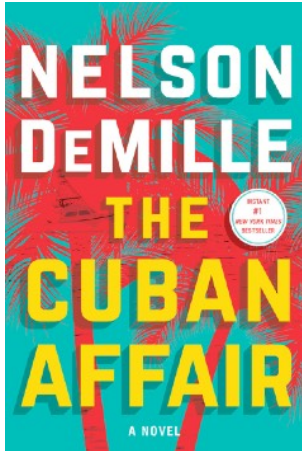
-Barbara Laub, Head of Technology and Adult Services

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BOOK REVIEWS

***The Cuban Affair*
by Nelson DeMille**

Nelson DeMille’s latest book, *The Cuban Affair*, introduces Daniel “Mac” McCormick, a veteran of the Afghanistan war who has settled in the Florida Keys to run a chartered fishing boat, and his friend and mate Jack, a veteran of the Vietnam War.



Mac is contacted by an anti-Castro group of Cuban exiles who want his help for a covert mission to recover money hidden by exiles when they fled the revolution. Mac is in debt and a bit bored with life in Key West, so even though it has the potential to be a dangerous mission, the

idea of the reward of \$3 million is enticing; as is Sara Ortega, a woman of Cuban heritage who will be sharing the adventure with him.

Mac and Sara enter Havana posing as members of an educational Yale travel group who get romantically entangled. Things immediately get complicated when Sara attracts the attention of Cuban officials. Despite this, their act seems to be

successful, although suspicions from the tour guide begin to challenge this perception.

Mac and Sara soon discover that their actions and words are being listened to and reported to the authorities. In addition, Mac discovers that he might not have been given all the facts, while at the same time an actual romance blossoms between Sara and him. As their plan seems to fall apart they wonder if they should simply flee with their lives. Even Mac—former military with a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts who is not in the habit of running—thinks perhaps this is one case where discretion is the better part of valor.

The book is a tense and suspenseful thriller that is a fun and entertaining read, and it also provides background on the Cuban revolution as well as detailed descriptions of Cuba, its architecture, life, culture, and people.

-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 2017

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

The Bauman Family
Treasure & Rich Cohen
Brian & Virginia Falconer
The Dornam Foundation
Mimi Fogel
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The Woman’s Club of Maplewood,
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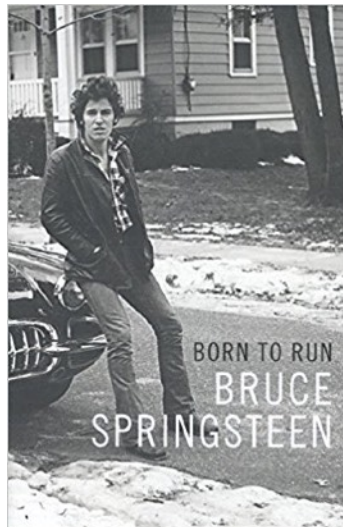
-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

BOOK REVIEWS

***Born to Run*
by Bruce Springsteen**

You don't have to be a fan to enjoy and appreciate this beautifully written memoir by Bruce Springsteen.

The first part of his autobiography focusses on the musician's near-poverty and hardscrabble upbringing in Freehold, NJ, during which he was doted on by his paternal grandmother. His mother held the family together (Bruce has two younger sisters) in the shadow of an alcoholic father who was later diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. Springsteen's blue-collar background helped develop his strong work ethic and informed the songs he wrote about ordinary people struggling with jobs, love, and money.



This book is over 500 pages, with short chapters each on one topic, one theme, one moment. He weaves stories of his friendships, marriages, and fatherhood between those of his career as one of the most successful rock musicians of our time. He writes candidly about his bouts with depression and the complicated relationship he had with his father, which is a theme throughout the book.

Springsteen's writing style ranges from a spare, poetic tone to a vivid torrent of words, depending on the story he is telling.

As with his songwriting, Springsteen is a master storyteller who gives his readers an honest, gripping, poignant, and heartfelt look into his remarkable life and career.

-Nancy Denholtz

***Magpie Murders*
by Alan Horowitz**

Magpie Murders by Alan Horowitz is a treat for mystery readers. Horowitz gives us not one but two mysteries wrapped within each other. In the more traditional mystery, dying detective Atticus Pund, a half-German, half-Jewish Holocaust survivor, is called in to investigate the death of the housekeeper at Pye Hall, in the cozy English village of Saxby-on-Avon. At first, Pund has no interest in becoming involved, mainly because he's gravely ill, but also because the housekeeper fell down the stairs and it clearly seems to have been an accident; but when the lord of the manor, Sir Magnus, dies within a few days of the housekeeper, Pund takes the case.

This will be his last case before Pund's death. There are many villagers to interview. Magnus' wife Frances, Frances' lover Jack Dartford, Magnus' estranged twin sister, the housekeeper's son Robert, his fiancé Joy, the village vicar, and Brent the groundskeeper are just a few of the potential suspects.

And then there's the mystery within the mystery, the book within the book. We are told in the beginning that *Magpie Murders*, the mystery described above, is the final installment in author Alan Conway's popular Atticus Pund series. The narrator of this book is Susan Ryeland, a literary agent at the publishing house Cloverleaf Books. Cloverleaf has been Conway's publisher for many years, and Susan has the task of editing and shepherding this last book through. As Susan works on Conway's book, mysteries begin to crop up involving Cloverleaf, Susan's boss, and Conway. Susan then becomes a sleuth and tries to solve both the book mystery and the publishing mystery.

In an interview with NPR, Horowitz said "I wanted it to be...a sort of a treatise on the whole genre of murder-mystery writing. How the writers come up with the ideas; how these books are formed. That was my interest in writing it. I didn't just want people to have the fun and the pleasure of 'Oh, it was the doctor'...on the final page. I wanted there to be something a little bit more." He achieved his goal.

-Rae Paltiel

The Maplewood and South Orange Library Foundations are honored to host:

Politics, Race and Culture in our Country's History

AN EVENING WITH FILMMAKER KEN BURNS
in discussion with historian Khalil Gibran Muhammad, including clips from Burns's films

DECEMBER 9, 2017
7:00 p.m. at Columbia High School

Tickets will go on sale in November.

The evening will benefit the Library Foundations of Maplewood and South Orange.

The event is made possible in part thanks to DKC Public Relations.



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 2018, 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 2018:
- Individual - \$15
 - Family - \$20
 - Contributing - \$25
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YES, I would like to help with Friends' Book Sales.