

President's Notes

What can you do with your Maplewood Library card? It's a small question with a big answer.

You can check out a book—from 79 libraries. You can visit The Intrepid with your family for free. You can use a 3D printer. You can learn a language with Mango Language or Rosetta Stone. You can use Hoopla and Kanopy to stream videos or download music, audiobooks, or ebooks. You can read your favorite magazine on RBDigital. You can access numerous research databases: Ancestry library edition (must use at the library), Consumer Reports, Job & Career Accelerator, Legal Information Reference Center, Reference USA, Scholastic Go, Small Business Reference Center, and many more. You can get books delivered if you are homebound. You can get expert help from a librarian. You can sit in a comfy chair and read the newspaper. Your library card is an almost limitless resource!

Last year at this time we were awaiting the vote on the Library Bond Construction Act to provide \$125 million in grants for state libraries. The Act passed resoundingly. Since then, the Building Committee has been awaiting the arrival of the criteria to apply for a grant. And we continue to wait. As of late September, a final draft was apparently awaiting approval by a variety of state agencies. The timeline now seems to indicate publication of the regulations for public comment in early 2019. Hopefully all our patience will pay off in the end.



On a happy/sad note, Barbara Laub, Technology and Adult Services Head extraordinaire, will be retiring at the end of December 2018. Barbara has been the steady hand on the tiller as the library navigates the changing world of technology. Her competence, efficiency, and kindness will be greatly missed.

-Laura Nial, President

FALL BOOK SALE: NOVEMBER 17-18

Each book sale donation period has its own personality. Fall 2018 will be remembered for an avalanche of DVDs and CDs, a vast collection of children's books, and a surprising number of books on magic. You never know when you'll come across a book on the origin of swear words or TV sets from the 1950s or comedy screenwriting. Of course, then there are all the usual suspects—*The Da Vinci Code*, *The Girl With the Dragon*

Tattoo, Suze Orman's financial tomes, *Angela's Ashes*.

In other words, you are bound to find something to pique your interest at the Fall Book Sale. We hope to see you, your family, and friends there.

• **Saturday, November 17: 10 - 5**

• **Sunday, November 18: 11 - 5**

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

-Laura Nial and Rae Paltiel, Co-Chairs

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am very proud of the collections, program, and services of the Maplewood Memorial Library, but I am most proud to work alongside our talented and experienced staff.

Every September, Maplewood celebrates Township staff at an annual staff appreciation picnic at the Maplewood Community Pool. This year, the celebration was bittersweet, as Barbara Laub, the Head of Adult and Technical Services, will be retiring at the end of December. Barbara has worked at the library for 30 years and is well known throughout Maplewood. She is a first-class reference librarian, a mentor to many, an avid reader, and a generous colleague. In a time of great technological change, Barbara implemented many new systems and continues to look for new ways to serve our dynamic community.



With generous support from the Friends of the Library to fund innovative services, she helped this library become the intellectual center of our town.

We are so grateful for everything Barbara has done for the Maplewood Library, and we thank her for sharing her knowledge, talent, and expertise with us all.

-Sarah Lester, Director

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LIBRARIES ROCK!

Summer at the library was another wonderful experience for Maplewood families—thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library. We were able to offer extraordinary and unique programs, along with incentives to encourage reading and writing. Our theme this summer for kids, teens, and adults was “Libraries Rock!”



More than 1,200 kids, 48 teens, and 70 adults participated, an increase over last year and nearly double the number of any neighboring library.

The prizes were especially motivating to nonreaders, who would line up in front of the prize display and wonder out loud how they would get to the 25-hour prize (a Lego person) or the 50-hour prize (star putty). Nearly 200 children and teens managed to read for more than 50 hours each!

Funding from the Friends enabled us to offer over 150 programs this summer, serving 2,651 children, 300 teens, and 1,803 adults. We tried out new programs like the Hello Summer party and Bubble-Palooza, as well as Sew It and a Flamenco workshop. The support we receive from the Friends allows us to engage our community with high-quality programs and life-changing experiences. The enthusiasm that we see every summer is a direct reflection of that support. Thank you!

-Jane Folger and Amalia Butler, Children’s Librarians

SUMMER FUN AT HILTON BRANCH

Once again the Friends' generosity made summer amazing for the kids who visited the Hilton Branch! We made some adjustments to our reading program this year, and the results speak for themselves: 218 kids registered and together logged over 1,300 hours of reading! (If you're keeping track, that's a 31% increase in kids compared to 2017.) Children as young as one year old participated (with a grown-up's help) and earned prizes. Our most avid reader recorded 82 hours of reading—every week she and her mom would come in to report her reading time, pick up prizes, and leave with arms full of books.

We distributed maker kits every week, and they were a big hit: some kids would make it barely six feet from Rachael's desk before they opened up their bags and started working on the projects inside. One father came to the library every week to pick up maker kits for his three girls, regardless of whether they were able to come with him or not; he said they had so much fun making the projects with him that he couldn't miss a week. This year's maker kit projects included noisemakers, weaving, origami, paper helicopters, and a spinning top.

Our fourth annual Create Camp featured some of our best projects yet, and little ones attending Rachael's weekly Maker Mondays made musical instruments and telephones out of recycled materials. On Tinker Thursdays, upper-elementary students made found-object wind chimes, cardboard buildings, and "boom boxes" that allowed them to hear with their teeth. Robert also taught upper-elementary kids how to build speakers from cardboard boxes and paper cups.



We hosted some popular events that brought families in by the dozens: our Hello Summer Party had nearly 300 people relaxing, painting, and dancing to Father Goose Music; Music & More with Kelly filled our meeting room with happy babies and their caregivers; and Magical Melodies kept crowds of preschoolers dancing and laughing. One of the biggest successes of the summer was the amount of collaboration between the children's librarians at both branches: Rachael and Amalia worked together to lead bilingual story times at both locations and all-ages story times in parks across town; both branches shared the same new reading-log template; and Jane, Irene, Amalia, and Rachael all worked together to organize and host the wildly popular Bubble Day at Hilton.

Thank you for making all this fun and learning possible!

-Rachael Guerrero, Hilton Children's Librarian

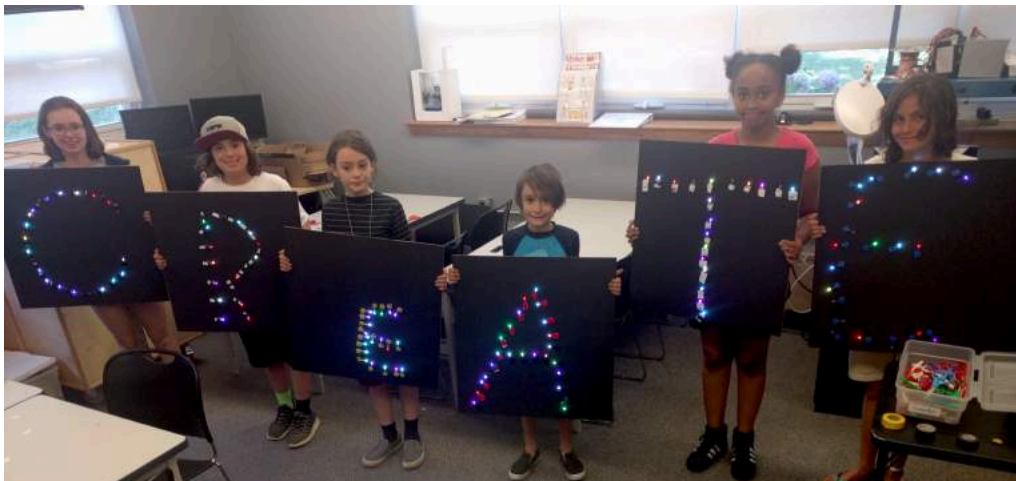


OUR CREATIVE TEENS

Our Teen Summer Reading program showed some growth from 2017 to 2018 that was exciting to track. We had 48 readers registered, compared to 40 in 2017. This year we tracked time spent reading as opposed to books, and collectively our teens spent 740 hours reading and writing (with our top reader clocking in over 100 hours herself!). One of the best parts of this summer, however, was seeing teens return to our Village 2 Village and Create Camp programming, excited to be back and learn new things.

Village 2 Village United's mission is to bring together teens from different cultures and backgrounds to experience the strength of community without borders. This year we did that by splitting our SOMA teens and Syrian teens into small mixed groups to create video projects documenting their time together over a full week of activities. The finished projects were beautiful, and encouraged conversation and sharing between the groups beyond what we experienced in last summer's program.

In our first session back for Create Camp, many teens reminisced about their favorite projects from 2017 and excitedly inquired about what they could expect to build and make this year. We successfully completed six projects: a PVC pendulum drawing board, a DIY Tesla coil, a conductivity tester, an LED "throwie" light wall, a cigar-box guitar, and a DIY zoetrope.



The range of projects touched upon a strength from each teen who participated and pushed them to try something new. The persistence of our teens amazed me this year, with one father and son team returning during Open Create Space hours to troubleshoot their Tesla coil with success and smiles, and a brother/sister duo working together to share tips and tricks for their cigar-box guitar.

We are so thankful to be able to provide these opportunities for our tweens and teens in Maplewood, and it would not be possible without the support of the Friends of the Library. The funding the Friends provide for our summer reading programs affords us the best materials for projects, fuel to keep our participants going during those long, full-day programs like V2V, and prizes to push our readers beyond what they think they can accomplish. With school back in session, we hope to continue to foster this love of reading, writing, building, making, and doing in small ways in our teen spaces.

-Emily Witkowski, Teen Librarian

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

FRIENDS' FRIENDLY FUNDING

At Maplewood Library we are proud to offer great collections, engaging and interesting programming, and cutting-edge technology and services. One of the secrets to the library's success is the support of our Friends of the Library. I have been with the library many years and have seen the introduction of many new services and technologies. Invariably, we on the staff would go to the Friends to pitch our new ideas, and they have been unstinting in support of our innovations. Not every library is so lucky!

Here are some of the programs and services for adults that the Friends have funded this year:

Adult Summer Reading Club: Over 70 library patrons participated in this summer's reading program. Each book they read allowed them an entry in a drawing. At the end of the summer, 10 readers won goody bags, and the lucky Grand Prize winner snagged an Amazon Fire HD Tablet. We know our library patrons don't *really* need extra encouragement to read, but why should kids have all the summer fun?

Art and Music Receptions: Our monthly exhibits of local artists enliven our spaces and attract new visitors from the community. Every month, we throw a reception for a featured artist on a Saturday afternoon. The artist speaks about his or her work, and there is live music and refreshments. If you haven't attended one of these lively events, you've been missing out!

Museum Passes: The New Jersey/New York area is home to an incredible wealth of cultural institutions, but visiting them can be expensive for families. The Friends underwrite the library's Museum Pass program, which allows patrons to borrow free passes to seven local attractions: the Guggenheim Museum, Morris Museum, Newark Museum, Montclair Art Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum, and new this year, the Frick Collection.

Ideas Festival: By now everyone knows about the library's fabulous Ideas Festival, an annual event over several weeks in early spring that showcases creative and inspiring individuals with local ties. Of course the Friends are a major sponsor.



Mobile Hotspots: Nowadays it is almost impossible to stay informed, conduct business, or do homework without access to the internet. But even in our comfortable community of Maplewood, not everyone can afford to have an internet connection in their home. Last year, with funding from the Friends, the library procured a set of mobile hotspots to provide free wireless internet to residents who lack this essential service. Each of the library branches has six of these hotspots to lend for three months at a time, plus one "express" hotspot to be borrowed for a week. The hotspots are constantly checked out, indicating how badly this service is needed.

Staff Scholarships: In this ever-changing world, library staffers must constantly hone our skills and keep up with new developments. Funding from the Friends helps us attend meetings and conferences, as well as underwriting formal study in Library School.

The Friends of the Library also provide invaluable support for Kids and Teens programs, and throughout the library. Your membership in the Friends helps our library stay strong!

-Barbara Laub, Head of Technology and Adult Services

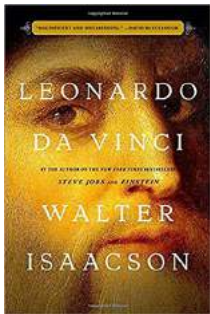
TRIBUTES

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.

BOOK REVIEWS

Leonardo da Vinci
by Walter Isaacson

Walter Isaacson has delivered an immensely readable, thoughtful biography of Leonardo da Vinci. Isaacson presents da Vinci’s life and work in a way that captures how this master’s insatiable curiosity transformed his intellect and talent into genius.



Isaacson points out that it was da Vinci’s passion to learn, his imagination, and his keen observation that elevated his innate gifts into those of a true visionary. Although he produced a relatively small number of finished paintings, da Vinci created a legacy of countless pages of innovative drawings on engineering, anatomy, geometry, and architecture.

Isaacson’s book is not in chronological order—instead, he organizes his narrative so that in the introduction we learn the most basic facts about da Vinci, and then he alternatively presents da Vinci’s private life, public works, private drawings and ambitions, and public relationships with his Renaissance artist contemporaries. We find that he was a man of science and art, and his passions ranged from anatomy, the heart, and engineering to flying machines, weaponry, geology, fossils, and more. In addition to his talents, we also see da Vinci as a flawed human being. Throughout his life, he tended to procrastinate, and during his lifetime he actually finished very few projects.

With many pictures and sketches from da Vinci, the reader can experience the richness of his talent as his extraordinary life is explored in these pages.

-Bill Donovan

Educated
by Tara Westover

Educated is a beautifully written, powerful memoir by a woman who grew up in rural Idaho. Tara Westover was the seventh and last child of Mormon survivalist parents. The family was dominated by her father, who was determined to raise his children away from the clutches of the government and the wider world. He owned a scrap

yard where his children labored without protective equipment. When injuries did occur, they were not allowed to see doctors or take medicine.

Westover was barely home schooled and did not set foot in a classroom until age 17 after she taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University. This happened only at the urging of one of her brothers, who managed to extricate himself from their isolated and often dangerous world.

This book can be difficult to read at times, as Westover describes the terrifying actions of her father and a violent, abusive older brother.

Westover’s intellect and quest for knowledge eventually led her overseas to earn a Ph.D. at Cambridge and a visiting fellowship at Harvard. Throughout her schooling, she is drawn back to her family, but her brother’s abuse continues, and the family cannot accept reality as they slip further and further into denial. It is through her education that Westover can examine her upbringing with clarity and perspective despite these denials. This is the story of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties.

Educated is a compelling memoir by a talented writer with an inspiring story to tell.

-Nancy Denholtz

Special Gifts
April through October 2018

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

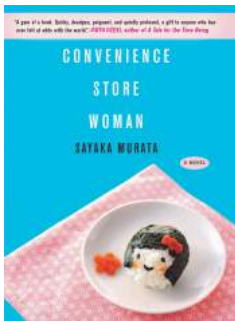
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-Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

BOOK REVIEWS

***Convenience Store Woman*
by Sayaka Murata**

Convenience Store Woman is a short, simple novel that raises some complex issues about life in the modern world, especially from a woman's point of view. The story focuses on 36-year-old Tokyo resident Keiko Furukua, who works as a cashier in the Hiromachi branch of Smile Mart, a Japanese convenience store similar to 7-Eleven.



As a child, Keiko was considered odd, a misfit. She often said and did the wrong thing at home and at school, and although her parents loved her, they wanted to “cure” her of her aberrational behavior. Keiko also wanted to fit in. While attending university, she happens upon a convenience store that is seeking employees.

Keiko applies for a job and finds her calling. She enjoys greeting customers with the same welcoming phrase in the exact same tone each time, stocking shelves with mountains of food and confectionaries, and operating the checkout till. Her parents think she is in a dead-end job, but Keiko has found her place at Smile Mart. Over the years, by following the rigid procedures of the store to the letter and by copying the clothes, the speech, and the mannerisms of her coworkers, she finally feels “normal” and at peace with the world.

Keiko expresses her love for the store as each customer comes in and she says, “‘Irasshaimase! Good morning!’ I love this moment. It feels like morning itself is being loaded into me. The tinkle of the door chime as a customer comes in sounds like church bells to my ears. When I open the door, the brightly lit box awaits me—a dependable, normal world that keeps turning. I have faith in the world inside the light-filled box.” Despite Keiko’s contentment, her family, friends, and co-workers pressure her to adopt a more conventional lifestyle. They want her to marry, have children, and work at a high-powered job worthy of her intelligence and education. When Keiko starts living with fellow coworker Shiraha, everyone is pleased for her and accepts her, even though Shiraha is a lazy, slovenly ne’er-do-well.

Despite its brevity, the book explores weighty issues—the need to fit in, the desire to find meaning in one’s life, and the societal pressures on women to lead what others consider acceptable lives. You can read this book in a day, but you’ll be discussing the questions the book raises for a long time to come.

-Rae Paltiel

***The Liz Carlyle Novels*
by Stella Rimington**

This series of spy novels comes from Stella Rimington, who joined the British spy agency MI5 in 1968, became its Director General 1992, and retired in 1996.

Per the *Wall Street Journal*, “Stella Rimington bids to join the ranks of such secret agent authors as W. Somerset Maugham, Graham Greene, and John le Carre.”

Each of these novels, featuring fictional spy Liz Carlyle, has multiple characters, most of whom have a decent role before the final result; scenes are outlined visually; plots are not complex; and continuous page-turning is driven by crisp writing and convincing motives or connectedness between strange coincidences.

Rimington’s chief charm is posing the psychological rationale behind her main characters actions (or inactions), especially from a woman’s point of view. This includes Carlyle’s colleagues, a chief assistant and the head of MI5.

My summer reading included *At Risk*, *Secret Asset*, *Illegal Action*, and *Breaking Cover*—that’s a total of 1,441 pages, and I’m not normally a fast reader! If I have a small critique, it’s that I found the endings of each a bit of a let-down.

Two other quotes from the British Press are nice compliments: “Liz Carlyle remains one of the most interesting characters in the male-dominated world of the spy thriller,” according to the *Daily Express*; and from the *Daily Mail*, “This is something rare: a spy novel that prizes authenticity over fabrication... true to the character and spirit of intelligence work.”

-David Nial



JOIN OR RENEW



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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 2019, 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 2019:
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YES, I would like to help with Friends' Book Sales.