



NEWSLETTER

President's Notes

Last spring two library programs were begun and have really taken off: BCCLS and the Maplewood Ideas Festival. Both programs have been hugely successful thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Library staff and the enthusiastic support of the Maplewood community.

Recently, someone confessed confusion over the functions of the Library Board of Trustees, Foundation and Friends. Each of these three groups plays a different role in maintaining the vitality and vibrancy of the Maplewood Library:

The Board of Trustees is appointed by the Mayor to oversee the running of the Library and its budget. They make decisions as to Library policies and their enforcement. When economic times are difficult, the Trustees are forced to make difficult choices, such as staffing cuts and limiting hours of operation, as well as finding non-budgetary funding to support basic Library needs.

The Maplewood Library Foundation was established in 2010 to provide a long-range investment vehicle to accumulate, invest, and distribute monies raised to fund major projects outside the scope of the Library's annual budget. The Foundation eventually hopes to provide some financial security to the Library by being the conduit for bequests, large and small donations, and fundraising event proceeds, without the burden of state restrictions on the use of the funds.

The Friends of the Maplewood Library was established in 1942 to offer ongoing support to the Library. Since that time the Friends have provided over \$250,000 to the Library to fund new initiatives (computers, Internet access, e-audiobooks, WiFi upgrade, website updates, teen services, etc.) as well as annual programs (children, teen, adult summer reading; staff scholarships; museum passes; art and music receptions, etc.). All funds raised by Friends through memberships, special gifts, and book sales are returned to the Library through these initiatives.

The Friends Annual Meeting takes place on Monday, April 27, at 7:30 in Memorial Hall. This year's speaker is Maplewood's own wine geek and connoisseur, Hank Zona. Hope to see you there and at the book sale.

-Laura Nial, President



SPRING BOOK SALE: APRIL 25 - 26

Have you been searching for the final volume in a favorite book series? Or maybe want to start volume one of something new? Just got interested in bird watching? Visited a local museum and wanted to learn more about an artist? Decided to cook at home more and need some inspiration? Want some new books to encourage your teen to read more? Finally getting around to reading the classics? Need some gardening expertise?

The Spring Book Sale has a great selection of books to fill these and many other reading needs. Plus don't forget the DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and other media that are available. With so many choices, you're bound to leave the sale with a smile—and a bag full of books.

• **Saturday, April 25: 10 - 5**

• **Sunday, April 26: 11 - 5**
(fill a bag with books, etc., of your choice; entry through back door by parking lot only)

- Laura Nial and Barbara Sanok, Co-Chairs

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

In March we celebrated our second annual Maplewood Ideas Festival. This would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of the Library, as well as the Maplewood Library Foundation and the Maplewood Woman's Club. The best libraries have always relied on public-private partnerships, and the Maplewood Memorial Library is no exception. We are fortunate to have strong municipal support from Maplewood Township and are very grateful to the Friends of the Library and other private donors for enhancing our services. The monthly art and music receptions, made possible with annual grants from the Friends of the Library since 2013, have been very successful and are great examples of this enhancement.

Our February artists, Onnie Strother and Yvette Lucas, captivated a large audience at their reception on a cold February day, and we were thrilled to kick off our Ideas Festival on March 14 with a reception for Mikel Frank and Gerard Amsellem. Frank and Amsellem truly transformed the Library with stunning artworks on our walls and stack ends. Art and literature have always made a great combination, and we thank the Friends for making this possible in Maplewood.

- Sarah Lester, Director



TRIBUTES

Friends' Tribute Cards make wonderful (tax deductible) gifts to honor or remember a lover of libraries, books, and reading. All donations are gladly accepted.

The donor of \$25 or more may suggest a specific subject area for a book or other library material (book on CD, children's book, large print book, etc.) to be purchased. The Honoree's name will be inscribed on a Friends' bookplate and placed in the specially selected item. Your Honoree will receive a special acknowledgement of your gift.

-Donna D'Amato, Tribute Chair

TEEN TECH: MINECRAFT WATER CHALLENGE

Maplewood's teens played the Minecraft Water Challenge as part of our programming for Teen Tech Week in March. In this challenge the world has only a single water source, and the teens had to set up a farming operation, feed themselves and build a settlement.

The participants came up with creative solutions to transport, conserve, and build around the limited supply through play, using the MinecraftEdu server funded last year by the Friends.

-Irene Langlois, Head of Teen Services



HILTON BUILDS A CREATE SPACE

The Hilton Branch Library has been busy, busy, busy. Patrons have gotten used to the wonderful BCCLS consortium, which allows them access to 75 libraries and their resources, so we receive and send boxes full of books every day. The staff has been training all year on the new interlibrary software, with remarkable success, so we are now part of an active group of NJ libraries.

We continue to offer computer classes at all levels, story-time events, movies, and book clubs. Dogs come to be read to and people come to print on our 3-D printer. On March 21 the Hilton Branch hosted the official launch of our Create Space, which has turned our computer lab into a 21st century MakerSpace. Kids of all ages filled the library during the kickoff party and used their creativity to do everything from powering a homemade lightbulb to building fantastical structures with Legos. The Hilton Create Space is open and ready for young creators!

-Jennifer Burkholder, Hilton Branch Manager

HANK ZONA: IN THE WINE ZONE

Wine consultant, educator and connoisseur Hank Zona, a longtime Maplewood resident, will be guest speaker at the Friends of the Maplewood Library annual meeting on Monday, April 27, 7:30pm, at the Main Library.

When Zona talks about wine, his passion and profession, the discussion often ranges across a wide variety of topics. Well-versed in the lore and legend of oenophilia, he is also an entertaining storyteller and likes to relate wine to other interests including food (especially pairings), history and tradition, and even Dr. Seuss and Girl Scout cookies. He is also happy to offer recommendations on cost, varietals, etc.

Zona’s wine-events business includes his local weekly TV program on SOMAtv and his popular blog “The Grapes Unwrapped,” both of which he describes as “a free-flowing conversation on all things related to wine.”

The evening promises to be both fun and informative, and is free and open to the public. Refreshments (alas, not including wine . . .) will be served.

-Anne Smith, Program Chair



Photo by Joy Yagid

SCIENCE IN THE CHILDREN’S ROOM

With much of our focus on early literacy over the past few years, the Children’s Department is now shifting attention back to school-age children and their families.

We began a series of programs recently called “Family Science,” bringing hands-on science activities to the community. We’ll be teaching interactive science-based programs, such as coding workshops for families, in which we walk them through the basic concepts behind all types of technologies—both low- and high-tech. The goal is to show parents and kids how easy and fun science and technology can be.

-Jane Folger, Head of Children’s Services

NEW DIGITAL SERVICES

Have you tried Zinio? It’s a “digital newsstand” offering 250 popular magazines that can be read on computers or downloaded to mobile devices. The magazines are in full color, with all the pictures and features as the print editions, and they look fantastic on your computer, iPad, or smartphone. Once you download them, they are yours to keep for as long as you like. Go to maplewoodlibrary.org/new-zinio-for-libraries/ for more information on Zinio.

Another new service from the library is Ancestry Library Edition, the premier online genealogical database. It contains millions of census listings, vital records, immigration and military records, directories, photos, and more. Whether you are a sophisticated genealogist or just beginning to research your family history, Ancestry Library is a research goldmine. Find it on the library’s “Research Databases” webpage (maplewoodlibrary.org/research-databases) from one of the library’s on-site computers. And this is just one of over 35 databases offered by the Maplewood library with information on a range of subjects, including literature, business, health, careers, news, public affairs, and many more.

- Barbara Laub, Head of Technology and Adult Services

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BOOK REVIEW

***The Boys in the Boat*
by Daniel James Brown**

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics is a story of courage and inner strength told through Joe Rantz, a young boy tossed (almost literally) alone into the world at age 10 by poverty and parental neglect. At that age he was obviously unprepared for life on his own, but he was also unwilling to give up and fail. Despite repeated setbacks, he pulled himself up to face another day, eventually making his way to the University of Washington and trying out for, and making, the school's rowing crew. It is through his life that we learn of the rowers who sat in the boat built by George Pocock and would go to the 1936 Berlin Olympic games to win a gold medal.

Most of the story is set during the early 1930s in the years leading up to the Olympic games. In addition to following the development of the team in Washington, the book describes the overall difficulty of life at the time. The country was in the midst of the Great Depression and the negative impact it had on the various small towns where most of the crew team grew up is made very clear. In addition, the country suffered from the devastation in the Dust Bowl and the devastating impact it had on the country's economy.

The book also looks at what was happening in Nazi Germany as that country geared up to host the Olympics. During the period 1933-1935, the Nazi party seized power and started putting forth the first of its anti-Semitic legislation. However, in anticipation of the foreign visitors coming in for the games they "toned it down" a little, taking steps like removing signs that prohibited Jews from various establishments in and around Berlin. In addition, the Nazi propaganda machine was geared up to present Germany's best face, and we learn about the steps taken by people such as Joseph Goebbels and Leni Riefenstahl.

Readers also learn about the history of rowing, the famed shell (boat) builder George Yeoman Pocock, and the coaches who battled each other for the chance to compete in the Olympics. Mostly though, this is the story of a group of young men who found their identity as part of the crew team—nine men working together, sometimes in conditions that leave you shaking your head in wonder, to accomplish something that they could only dream about as individuals. It is the story of a team, in which each member contributed his own unique strength that blended perfectly with the strengths of his teammates, and which led them to achieve near-perfection on the water.

-Bill Donovan

SUZANNE HENNING
SENIOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT


Suzanne has been coming to the Hilton Branch Library since she moved to Maplewood 20 years ago and began visiting with her sons at an early age. It was then that the staff asked her if she'd consider working at Hilton. Now it's 13 years later—her oldest son Nick is a political science major at Rutgers, and her youngest son is a geology major at the College of Wooster in Ohio.

Suzanne is an experienced graphic artist with a degree in fine art, and has worked for many years with companies like Time Warner and McGraw-Hill in corporate design and as a magazine art director.

While working as a Senior Library Assistant at Hilton, Suzanne continues to make art. She is especially interested in printmaking and paper-making. Look her up at suzannehenning.com.

BOOK REVIEW

Station Eleven
by Emily St. John Mandel

Station Eleven is categorized as science fiction, but it should appeal to a broader range of readers because of its universal themes. Emily St. John Mandel's novel takes place in a post-apocalyptic world that has been destroyed by a pandemic. It follows a group of performers called the Traveling Symphony, who tour the devastated locales, presenting Shakespearean plays and playing classical music.

Mandel has written an ambitious novel that moves back and forth between the past, before civilization was destroyed, and the present, which is bleak and hopeless except for the moments of beauty offered by this roving troupe. The book opens at a theater with the company performing a scene from *King Lear* while outside a deadly flu is spreading throughout the world. During the performance, the famous actor Arthur Leander, who is playing Lear, has a heart attack and dies. The rest of the story focuses on Arthur, Jeevan Chahary, an audience member who leaps onstage and attempts to revive Arthur, and Kirsten Raymonde, a child actress who grows up during this devastating period.

Although the novel never fully lives up to the grandeur and loftiness of a Shakespearean play, and it takes some effort to follow the storyline with the constant back and forth of time, the author writes beautifully and the novel has a lyrical quality within its setting. The book also raises several important issues worth discussing, primarily the purpose of the arts in a world where mere survival is the primary concern.

- *Rae Paltiel*

Special Gifts

November 2014 through March 2015

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

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Marcia & John Zweig

-*Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair*

Q&A: HEIDI WOLFLEY, SENIOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT



One of the things that makes Maplewood Library so special is its staff, many of whom are members of the community who have worked here for many years. Heidi Wolfley, a familiar face at the Main Library Circulation Desk, joined the Library in 1993 as a Senior Library Assistant. Barbara Laub, the Library's Head of Technical and Adult Services, recently sat down with Heidi and asked her about herself.

How did you come to work at the Maplewood Library?

I was working for a computer company in Maplewood, but I was a little bored. One of my friends heard that there was an opening at the library and I thought it would be more fun to work there, so I put in an application. The day Rowland Bennett (the director at the time) called me for an interview it was 100 degrees outside, but I was so eager for the interview I ran right over in my shorts—at least they were nice linen shorts. Rowland hired me, and put me right to work ordering books.

Tell us about your job.

I order books for the Adult Department, and I help to catalog and process them, along with the DVDs, music CDs, and audiobooks. I work helping the public at the Circulation Desk, and it is also my job every morning to count and deposit the money that comes into the library the previous day, including the overdue fines and fees and money from the copier.

How has your work changed over the years?

When I first started here we had a noisy printer in the work room that printed cards for the card catalog—that seems like ancient history now. I've always ordered books, but these days I am also involved with cataloging and processing them, getting them ready to go out on the shelf. Much of the work I do used to be done by professional librarians. Lots of time was spent cataloging, and several librarians reviewed all the work. Now automation has made our work faster and more efficient in many ways. Cataloging is very quick, and many of the books come in pre-processed with their labels, pockets, and covers already attached. It takes much less time for a book to arrive from the publisher and get into the hands of our readers.

What do you like most about working at the library?

The people! I love my co-workers—we've all been together here for a long time and it feels like a family. I am a person who likes change—I get bored if I have to

do the same thing over and over—and the library always provides me the opportunity to do new things. And since I live in town, the lack of a commute is a huge plus.

How do you feel about the library's new membership in BCCLS?

Preparing for the changeover was a great team effort. A lot of training was needed, and that was a little difficult at first, but it's changed everything for the staff and for the public. Our patrons are very happy with BCCLS, and it's made my work more interesting. It's fun seeing all the books and movies our patrons order from the other libraries, and pulling items off our own shelves to send out to the other libraries.

What are you reading now?

I'm reading the new Anne Tyler book, *A Spool of Blue Thread*. She's my go-to author—I always stop everything to read her.

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.



Some of the hard-working volunteer crew at the Fall 2014 Book Sale.



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 2015, 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 2015:

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