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## Let's meet at the 'Third Place'

If you have visited 717 Main Street lately, you know that today's public library is a community center, meeting place, and art gallery as well as a home to a cornucopia of materials in various formats — books, audiobooks, movies, recorded music, subscription databases, electronic games, and downloadable materials.

The sociologist Ray Oldenburg, in his book *The Great Good Place*, asserted that gathering places like libraries, bookstores, coffee houses, and other "third places" (home and work being first and second, respectively) are essential to community and public life. These "great good places" have a magical chemistry about them, and they enable people to put aside their workaday concerns and enjoy the atmosphere around them.

Over the years, the Library's mission as a center for lifelong learning has grown to include many programs geared to adults as well as children. Thanks to the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library, the George K. Progin Foundation, the Rosemary Davis Memorial Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and other supporters, Thayer Memorial Library is able to offer a wide variety of cultural programs for all ages. Diverse programs reach various audiences and serve to educate and entertain the community.

One evening in October, the Nathaniel Thayer Dexter Room was filled with the scent of ginger and garlic as veteran cook Norma Chang used her wok to make low-fat (but very flavorful) stir fry. Norma teaches throughout New England and New York state, and her informative programs are well attended. The library purchased two of Norma's

books — *My Students' Favorite Chinese Recipes* and *Wokking Your Way to Low-Fat Cooking*.

With the unemployment rate over 10 percent nationally, the library initiated a networking group in September to help address the problem locally. Twice a month, on Thursday mornings, a dozen or so adults meet in the Dexter Room, exchange information and support one another in a search for work. On Feb. 4 at 10:30 a.m., a financial consultant will speak about managing your money between jobs.

So far, adult programs scheduled for 2010 include:

- Planning a Culinary Herb Garden / Russell Stafford, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.
- Recipes that Heal / Chef Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.
- Using Herbs to Keep Well / Faith Venier, March 2 at 7 p.m.
- Simple Cheesemaking / Tia Pinney from Drumlin Farm, March 9 at 7 p.m.
- An evening with mystery author Emily Arsenault, who spent her early years in Lancaster, on March 23 at 7 p.m. The *New York Times Book Review* called her debut novel, *The Broken Teaglass*, a "literary gem."
- Raves for Reptiles, Tuesday, April 20 @ 6 p.m.

We are currently searching for a tai chi instructor (know anyone?) and someone to teach memoir writing. We welcome any suggestions you have for adult programs. Please e-mail them to [nhclune@cwmares.org](mailto:nhclune@cwmares.org).

— **Nancy Hayes Clune**  
*Nancy Hayes Clune is Thayer Memorial Library's Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian.*

### Don't Forget:

- **Legislative Breakfast**  
February 26 @ 8 a.m.
- **Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library**  
January 11, February 8, March 8 @ 7 p.m.

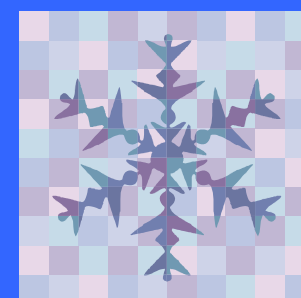
### Winter 2010

Coming Tuesday,  
February 9,  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
**Wolf Talk**, a family program (ages 6 and up), featuring a live wolf



**"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."**

- Lady Bird Johnson



### In This Issue:

- **Thank you**  
Page 2
- **For the children**  
Page 3
- **Upcoming programs for adults**  
Page 4



# CLARION

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
THAYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Volume 7, Number 1

## It's time to return to school

don't know about you, but I'm one of those people who have nightmares about high school and college. You know the dream, the one where you show up for an exam you forgot to study for or the one where you forget to show up for an exam that you also forgot to study for.

Don't get me wrong, I don't have anything against school, per se; I just didn't care for the performance requirements that were always looming — tests and grades. It's a shame really because I have an insatiable curiosity and excel at self-directed learning.

Ironically, it was after I graduated from college with an economics degree that I started picking up books on physics and philosophy and spending time in libraries. It may sound strange, but when the pressure was off I found learning much easier and more satisfying. I guess what attracts me most to my profession as a librarian is watching and assisting others who are discovering and acquiring knowledge.

Recently, the library received a generous gift from the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library. In addition to providing the library with some of the resources needed for programs and museum passes, part of this gift was used to delve into new territory for the library, a lifelong learning collection.

Enter the *Live and Learn* collection. The library is committed not only to

supporting self-directed learning but also to encouraging and providing for it. Sure, we have always kept our collections current, buying timely nonfiction and providing access to thousands of articles from both popular and scholarly resources. What is offered now, however, is one-stop access to more than 60 world-class courses taught by teachers from the Ivy League, Stanford, Georgetown, and other leading colleges and universities.

Courses, on a range of subjects, are available covering literature, philosophy, history, fine arts, science and religion in both video and audio formats. Here's the best part — there are no exams or grades, and patrons can learn at a comfortable pace. Are you confused about the systems and organs of the human body? Then watch *Understanding the Human Body: An Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology*. Can't distinguish a Manet from a Monet? Learn how by viewing *From Monet to Van Gogh: A History of Impressionism*. Are you concerned about the state of the world economy? Then listen to *America and the New Global Economy*.

Indeed, access to knowledge is more plentiful now, and it's even more accessible at the Thayer Memorial Library.

— **Joe Mulé**  
*Joe Mulé is Thayer Memorial Library's Director.*

## C/W MARS' Most Requested

### Books

- The Lost Symbol**  
Dan Brown
- I, Alex Cross**  
James Patterson
- True Compass: A Memoir**  
Edward M. Kennedy
- The Help**  
Kathryn Stockett
- The Scarpetta Factor**  
Patricia Daniels Cornwell
- True Blue**  
David Baldacci
- The Last Song**  
Nicholas Sparks
- Bed of Roses**  
Nora Roberts
- Ford County**  
John Grisham
- Alex Cross's Trial**  
James Patterson



### Movies

- The Proposal**
- Up**
- Ghosts of Girlfriends Past**
- Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen**
- Duplicity**
- The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3**
- Monsters vs. Aliens**
- My Life in Ruins**
- Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**
- Julie & Julia**

## Thanks for a great book sale

Members of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library would like to extend their gratitude to all who made our Annual Book Sale a great success this year. Friends' members were thrilled to present the library with \$7,000 this month in celebration of the success of the Book Sale along with our other fund-raising activities and our recent membership drive. We hope this will help the library as it begins to plan the 2010 calendar for children's and adult programs.

Many volunteers were involved in setting up, organizing and closing the book sale.

Our successful book sale could not have happened without the generosity of many people. First, the donations of gently used books that patrons make throughout the year make our book sale possible.

There were many volunteers involved in setting up, organizing and closing the book sale.

The many hours and days that these volunteers gave surely contributed to another year of growth in book sales and additions to the library's book



collection. And we thank the many patrons who purchased books, CDs and videos. We would also like to thank the Lancaster Police Department for the use of its mobile sign to help advertise our event.

The Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library meet the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Dexter Room of the library. If you are wondering how you can support the library, please consider attending an upcoming meeting. Come learn how you can help our library. Please e-mail us with any questions you have at [friendsoftml@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftml@gmail.com).

— **Kate Engelhardt**  
*Kate Engelhardt is chair of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library.*

Please help support library programs and museum passes. Become a member of the Friends.

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____	<b>Telephone:</b> _____
_____	<b>Email:</b> _____
<b>Mail To:</b> Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library 717 Main Street Lancaster, MA 01523	<input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me about helping the Friends
* If you opt for the Family Membership, any child in your household under the age of 13 automatically becomes a Little Friend. This entitles them to three free books at any Friends sponsored book sale. Simply supply us with their names on this form.	<b>Membership Categories:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (You decide) <input type="checkbox"/> Kindred Spirit (\$100) <input type="checkbox"/> Well-wisher (\$50) <input type="checkbox"/> Dear Friend (\$25) <input type="checkbox"/> Family Friend (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Senior Friend (\$10) <input type="checkbox"/> Little Friend* (\$2 individual / \$3 siblings)

The Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible by law.

## Winter Birthdays

### January

- Reclusive author J.D. Salinger, New York City, 1919
- Science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, Petrovichi, Russia, 1920
- Founding father Ben Franklin, Boston, 1706
- Robert Cormier, Leominster author of *The Chocolate War*, 1925
- Poet and short-story author Edgar Allan Poe, Boston, 1809

### February

- Poet Galway Kinnell, Providence, 1927
- Poet Amy Lowell, Brookline, 1874
- Abolitionist writer Lydia Maria Child, Medford, 1802
- Novelist Joy Williams, Chelmsford, 1944
- Women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony, Adams, 1820
- Journalist and historian Henry Brooks Adams, Boston, 1838
- Poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, Rockland, 1892
- Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Portland, 1807

### March

- Poet Robert Lowell, Boston, 1917
- Novelist John Irving, Exeter, 1942
- The Kite Runner* author Khaled Hosseini, Kabul, Afghanistan, 1965
- Poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Durham, England, 1806
- Beat Generation writer Jack Kerouac, Lowell, 1922
- Novelist and poet Russell Banks, Newton, 1940

## From Mehndi to even more Mehndi

**Story-hour** programs with Miss Susan are held every Thursday (with some exceptions) at 10:30 a.m. Each week has a special theme and offers lots of reading, a craft and live music with Miss Marilyn at the keyboard. Recommended for children ages 3 to 5, but we welcome all children, including out-of-town residents. No advance registration is necessary.

Dates and themes are:  
January: 7: Bugs, bugs, bugs; 14: Snowmen; 21: Animals of the African plains; 28: Will the groundhog see his shadow?  
February: 4: Bears; 11: The potty story hour; 18: (no story hour); 25: Are you hungry?  
March: 4: "I have a boo-boo," with Nurse Tamara; 11: Monster feet; 18: St. Paddy's Day; 25: Learn numbers.

**The Young Adult Book Group** welcomes new members. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for fun, discussion and great food. This club is for ages 13 through 18. We welcome all, including visitors from other communities. The program is funded by the Friends of Thayer Memorial Library.

A **Mehndi workshop** for teens and pre-teens, ages 10 to 18 and a guest, will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 27. There is a limit of 12 participants and registration is required. Mandy Roberge brings her skills as an amateur henna artist to for the workshop. Henna tattoos are a beautiful – and temporary – way for young girls and women to decorate their hands and feet.

Mandy will discuss the history of Mehndi, an ancient art form. Girls are encouraged to register with their mom, sister or best friend since Mehndi is best when practiced on another person. Registration is required.

It's time to **GO GREEN** when

it comes to making art. Have a blast using recycled material on Wednesday, Feb. 17, to create everything from robots to self-portraits. At 1 p.m., a session will be held for children ages 3 to 7. It is limited to 18 children, and each child must be assisted by an adult. At 2:30 p.m., a session will be held for ages 7 and up, limited to 20 children. (Each must be capable of using a low-heat glue gun.) There is no fee, but registration is required.

**American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Classes** will be held Friday, Feb. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Youngsters will learn how to perform first aid, make responsible decisions, find and interview for babysitting jobs, and supervise children from infancy through school-age. Students must be 11 to 15 years old (no exceptions). There is a \$40 fee per student for the class (checks should be made out to Linda Freeman at the time of registration) and students must be available for the entire class. The class is limited to 12 students, so registration is required.

On St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17, an **Irish Mehndi** with Mandy Roberge will be held at 6 p.m. The Irish version of henna tattooing is called *woading*. Ages 6 to adult are welcome, but younger children will require the assistance of an adult. There is a limit of 20 participants, and registration is required. Mandy will discuss the history of woading.

For programs requiring pre-registration, please see Susan Conroy or call 978-368-8928, ext. 5.

— **Susan Conroy**  
*Susan Conroy is Thayer Memorial Library's Children's Librarian.*