

## Mark Your Calendars!

- Tricks, treats and Bats  
Oct 21 and Oct 28
- Vintage Lancaster post-  
cards, Oct 28 @6:30 pm
- Fifteen fiddlers fiddling  
Dec 7 @ 6:30 pm



# CLARION

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
THAYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fall 2010

Volume 7, Number 4

*A book is like  
a garden  
carried in  
the pocket.*

*Chinese proverb*



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deeds with your  
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## To ARIS is human; to use the library, divine

**I**t's hard to believe a whole year has passed since I last broached this subject. Another year, another Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) to complete. Most fiscal years end in June, leaving the early months of a new fiscal year to take stock of resources and evaluate the performance of the Library from the prior year.

Every August, public libraries throughout the Commonwealth file the ARIS, which marks the first of several steps on the way to achieving certification.

Although the process is completely non-competitive, I can't help but measure Thayer Memorial Library in relation to some of its peers and, indeed, against itself.

Library services in general have been on an upward trend for quite some time in Lancaster. In fact, with a faltering economy and an unsteady job market, folks are re-thinking how they use their money and time. Staff members at TML have been making the case that tax dollars spent on the public library - less than \$35 per capita - provide some of the best value around.

So how do we stack up? In its entirety, Lancaster and its immediate public library neighbors<sup>1</sup> direct circulation rose less than 3 percent since a year ago. At TML, however, circulation rose more than 17

percent - second only to Bolton, whose circulation rose more than 23 percent. When you compare hours worked by staff over a typical week, TML (where staff work 203.5 hours) had the second fewest hours, ahead of only the Hazen Memorial Library in Shirley, where staff work 154 hours. Add to this the fact that Lancaster provided more open hours of service than any of its

neighbors (except Leominster), and it becomes clear that, dollar for dollar, TML provides residents an excellent value-added alternative to buying or renting other media relative

**"Dollar for dollar, TML provides residents an excellent value-added alternative to buying or renting books and other media relative to its neighbors."**

to its neighbors.

It's very satisfying for all of us at TML, who take great pride in providing you with excellent service, to see the Library stack up quite favorably against its neighbors. However, as I said, we're not in any way competing against our neighbors, or against any other library in Massachusetts for that matter. Although the Thayer Memorial Library may be demonstrably stronger in some areas, it is when libraries such as ours collaborate and share our resources, not compete for them, that the public is best served.

— Joe Mulé

*Joe Mulé is Director of the  
Thayer Memorial Library.*

<sup>1</sup> Bolton, Clinton, Harvard, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, and Sterling

## C/W MARS' Most Wanted Books



- 1 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**  
Stieg Larsson
- 2 Fly Away Home**  
Jennifer Weiner
- 3 The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest**  
Stieg Larsson
- 4 Private**  
James Patterson
- 5 Sizzling Sixteen**  
Janet Evanovich
- 6 The Help**  
Kathryn Stockett
- 7 Mockingjay**  
Suzanne Collins
- 8 Women, Food and God: An Unexpected Path to Almost Anything**  
Geneen Roth
- 9 The Passage**  
Justin Cronin
- 10 Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia**  
Elizabeth Gilbert

## Summer Re-cap, Fall Program Preview

Throughout the long, hot summer of 2010, 63 adults took part in the Adult Summer Reading Program, which involved checking off boxes on a B-I-N-G-O card by participating in library programs, visiting the Historical Museum (open Wednesdays from 6-8; call ahead), attending art exhibits and local museums, and checking out some of the library's eclectic offerings - from museum passes and paintings to books in every genre, audios, and music CDs.

At the end-of-the-season party on September 1st, four lucky people won raffle baskets worth more than \$50 each. Theme baskets were generously provided by the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library, whose gargantuan book sale during the first weekend in October goes a long way toward funding all sorts of programs for adults and children alike.

Tax-abatement volunteer Carolyn Stump took home the "Movie Lover's" basket - classic movie candy boxes, popcorn and seasonings, Coca-Cola in small glass bottles, a movie guide, and a movie trivia calendar. Monday night library Scrabble player and Saturday morning volunteer Sandy Nowicki walked away with the "That's Italian!" basket, filled with pasta, pesto, Chianti, cookbooks, and biscotti. Lancaster writer/editor Ann Frantz scored the "Book 'Em" basket, which included a copy of *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, a literary calendar, a bibliophile's mug, and an assortment of stationery. Fabiola Salvant won the "Coffee and Chocolate Lovers'" basket, chock-full of java, sweets, and a book of cappuccino recipes. Congratulations to all the winners!

One day over the summer, a

newcomer to Lancaster stopped in to the library and asked whether we offered a writing workshop. One thing led to another, and now that newcomer, Mary Dowling, is serving as facilitator of the new **Lancaster Writing Group**. On Thursday mornings, 13 word-smiths gather at 8:30 sharp to work on a 20-minute writing exercise, then reconvene to offer one another positive feedback. Those scribblings may turn into memoirs, short stories, children's books, and essays in the months to come.

### What's Up Next?

Just in time for Halloween, on Tuesday, October 19 at 7 pm, actress Rita Parisi will appear in full dress to present "**Gothic Victorian Tales by Candlelight**," based on Sarah Orne Jewett's writings. Teens and adults are in for a macabre treat at this Friends-funded program.

On Wednesday, October 20 at 7 pm, Susan Latimer of Clinton will start an 8-week class called **Learn to Knit!** A \$15 materials fee is due at the first meeting. Open to adults and teens age 14 and up; class size is limited to 6.

Don't miss John Schumacher-Hardy's colorful presentation of vintage Lancaster postcards on Thursday, October 28 at 6:30 pm. His new book, **Wish You Were Here: Lancaster, MA** (\$29.95), will be on hand for purchase and signing that evening.

Drs Jason and Kate Engelhardt, Lancaster's family chiropractors, will present "**The Five Keys to Slowing, Stopping, and Preventing Arthritis**" on Tuesday, November 2 at 7 pm. Please register so they'll know how many hand-outs to bring. This program is sponsored by the Friends.

**Continued on page 4**

## C/W MARS' Most Wanted Movies

- 1 **Date Night**  
Steve Carell and Tina Fey
- 2 **The Bounty Hunter**  
Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler
- 3 **The Book of Eli**  
Gary Oldman and Denzel Washington
- 4 **Shutter Island**  
Leonardo DiCaprio and Jackie Earl Haley
- 5 **Cop Out**  
Tracy Morgan and Bruce Willis
- 6 **The Last Song**  
Greg Kinnear and Kelly Preston
- 7 **True Blood: The Complete Second Season**  
Anna Paquin and Lois Smith
- 8 **The Blind Side**  
Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw
- 9 **When in Rome**  
Danny DeVito and Angelica Huston
- 10 **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**  
Michael Nyqvist and Noomi Rapace



## Fall into Story Hour and everything else fun

**Story Hour programs** with Miss Susan will be held every Thursday (with some exceptions) at 10:30 am. Each week has a special theme and offers lots of reading, a craft, and live music with the lovely Miss Marilyn at the keyboard. Recommended for children ages 3-5. No advance registration is necessary. Dates/themes follow:

10/21 Trick or Treat  
 10/28 Little Bat  
 11/4 Libraries  
 11/11 (Library closed)  
 11/18 Thanksgiving  
 11/25 (Library closed due to Thanksgiving)  
 12/2 Sign Language  
 12/9 Wintertime  
 12/16 Christmas  
 12/23 (Library closed due to the holidays)

**The Young Adult Book Group** is looking for new members. We continue to meet on the **second Wednesday of the month** - 11/10, 12/8, 1/11 at 6:30 pm for fun, discussion, and really great food! This club is for teens ages 13-18. Funded by the Friends of Thayer Memorial Library.

Wednesday, 10/27, at 6 pm, join us for **Magic Steve and his Incredible Halloween Show**. Master Magician and Illusionist Steve will amaze and amuse you with his award-winning magic. Old and young alike shouldn't miss this opportunity to see a professional magician. Paid for by a grant from the George K. Progin Estate.

Wednesday, 11/17, at 6:30 pm, Dr. Kate Engelhardt (DC, DACCP) will present **A Natural Approach to Childhood Ear Infections**. Dr. Kate Engelhardt is a board-certified pediatric chiropractor who has cared for many children in the community who have suffered with chronic

ear infections. She will help parents define ways to boost their children's immune systems naturally. Please register for this popular program.

Mark your calendar for **Teen Movie Night** on Wednesday, 11/17, at 6 pm. Come see *Robin Hood*, starring Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett, on the big screen! All local teens are invited to join us for fun and snacks. This film is rated PG-13.

Tuesday, 12/7, at 6:30 pm, the **musical group Rose, Thorn & Fiddle** will perform a holiday concert at the library. Fifteen fiddlers range in age from 10 to 16. Rose, Thorn & Fiddle has appeared locally as well as in Iceland and Quebec. No signup is necessary. Just show up to enjoy this musical evening.

Tuesday, 12/28, at 2 pm, Lisa Boutotte will lead us in another fun **Card-Making Workshop**. Make some awesome cards - holiday, thank-you, winter, or birthday cards - whatever you like. We provide all the materials; you provide the fun!

Wednesday, 12/29, at 3 pm, **Cosmic Kelly presents Magnets, ETC.; sign-up required**. Join Kosmic Kelly to learn about the power of magnetism with a variety of fun, hands-on activities. Use magnetism to make your own funny picture! Build your own electromagnet! Challenge your friends in a magnetic fishing game! *Maximum of 20 children*. Paid for by a grant from the George K. Progin Estate.

For more information on any of these programs, or to sign-up, please contact Susan Conroy at 978-368-8928, ext.5, or [sconroy@cwmares.org](mailto:sconroy@cwmares.org).

— Susan Conroy

*Susan Conroy is the Youth Services Librarian at the Thayer Memorial Library.*

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## The Friends are working for you

The Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library are considered the fundraising and public relations arm of the Library. This just means that we help to promote what is fun and stimulating to the community by offering donations toward museum passes and intriguing programs. In addition, we provide our well-publicized Annual Book Sale fundraiser (our biggest ever this year at the Lancaster Town Hall) and the sale of hand-stenciled slates from the original roof of the Library – designed and painted by our very own members.

As we've said before, none of this would be possible without our strong membership – the support and foundation of our work and purpose.

Although the final numbers aren't in yet (many members join the day of the Preview

Sale), we can safely say that we have exceeded expectations in gaining new supporters and bringing back long-time Friends despite the economy.

In turn, the Friends have been working with the Library to bring you even more programs this year – see Nancy's fall preview article. We hope that as a patron and/or a member you are able to enjoy and participate in the wide array of activities at the Thayer Memorial Library, knowing that your tax dollars and membership to the Friends is going toward a worthwhile cause.

If you have any feedback or would like to become a more active participant, please feel free to send us your thoughts at [friendsoftml@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftml@gmail.com).

— **Christiann Gibeau**

*Christiann Gibeau is Treasurer of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library.*

## Fall Preview (continued from page 2)

The Friends will sponsor two exciting literary programs this Fall. On Tuesday, November 9 at 7 pm, literary agent Jan Kardys will present **"Preparing a Manuscript for Publication, Finding a Publisher, and Negotiating a Book Contract."**

On Tuesday, November 16 at 7 pm, **"Mystery Desserts"** will feature three published mystery writers, all members of Sisters in Crime New England. Make sure to bone up on who-dunits by Gary Braver (*Skin Deep*), Leslie Wheeler (*Murder at Sprouters Point*), and Barbara Ross (*The Death of an Ambitious Woman*). Authors will sell and sign their books, and mystery desserts - no arsenic, we promise - will be served.

For more information, or to register for any of the programs, call 978-368-8928, ext. 4, or e-mail [nhclune@cwmares.org](mailto:nhclune@cwmares.org).

At press time, our application for the next season of **Rosemary Davis programs** was being reviewed by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, whose Rosemary Davis Fund has provided the library with a wealth of environmental, animal, and nature programs for the past decade. Rosemary Davis's thoughtful gift benefits library users of all ages. Stay tuned for a list of Rosemary Davis programs to be held in 2011.

— **Nancy Hayes Clune**

*Nancy Clune is Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian of the Thayer Memorial Library.*