

Winter Preview:

For a full listing of all the library's programs, log onto www.thayermemoriallibrary.org



CLARION

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
THAYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Stop the eBook insanity



The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is

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I'm no Luddite. In fact, two of the last decade's technological innovations – game changers, I like to call them – were the shrinking size and increased capacity of the personal computer and the birth of the network communications I can't yet live without. I don't love the social impact of everyone owning a cell phone, but I see they have legitimate applications. GPS is spot on. So what's got me steamed? eBooks.

It's not what you think. I actually *like* the potential of eBooks. Certainly, they will improve the education of our children in our schools, colleges and universities. Why print a whole book when only one chapter needs updating? I love the potential of weaving in all types of media, seamlessly hyperlinking footnotes to the actual source, and even reducing the amount of books one has to carry. This is all good stuff. What's got me steamed are book publishers who want to convince consumers that buying a copy of the latest James Patterson novel as an eBook is not only a hip thing to do, but is actually an improvement over the traditional reading experience. Publishers love to use the novelty that eBooks are an irresistible technological advancement that is better than reading an actual book.

Don't believe the hype. Yes, buying and downloading a book

whenever you want to from home is convenient. I wish libraries were given the resources to deliver materials right to your doorstep, but consumers are throwing the baby out with the bathwater when they download an eBook purely because it's convenient. Why? Well, let me ask you a question. **Why do folks insist on owning the books they read? People rarely reread most books that they buy.**

Publishers are using downloaded music as a model in which people will buy books, much like they do music. How easy is it to download a song for 99 cents? Plus, it's painlessly inexpensive. However, I bet most folks only listen to about 20% of their music collection with any frequency. Spending .99 a pop on a song seems minor until you realize that you own 100's (maybe 1000's) of songs you'll never listen to.

The difference with eBooks, of course, is that they are more expensive (around \$10), and people can only read so many books a year (a generous estimate may be around 10). Again, many of these books won't be reread. So, as folks conveniently accumulate a collection of books that will be read once, they will also be spending a heck of a lot of money. Granted, if I like a song and listen to it 100 times, .99 cents seems like a small price to pay for convenience. But how many times are you going to reread a newly purchased book?

C/W MARS' Most Wanted Books



- 1 **The Confession**
John Grisham
- 2 **Cross Fire**
James Patterson
- 3 **Hell's Corner**
David Baldacci
- 4 **Port Mortuary**
Patricia Cornwell
- 5 **Moonlight Mile**
Dennis Lehane
- 6 **Decision Points**
George W. Bush
- 7 **The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest**
Steig Larsson
- 8 **Fall of Giants**
Ken Follett
- 9 **Happy Ever After**
Nora Roberts
- 10 **Rescue**
Anita Shreve

Learn, interact, create – it's all here!

Good news! The Library has received a **\$5,000 grant from the Rosemary Davis Fund** of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation for environmental programs in 2011. For details on Rosemary Davis programs, log onto our website, thayermemorallibrary.org.

Did you get a Kindle, Nook, or SONY eReader for Christmas? If so, you may want to sign up for our hands-on workshop on **Downloading Free eBooks and Audios from C/W MARS**. On Monday, January 24, from 3 to 5 pm, Cynthia Laino from C/W MARS will be on hand to guide you through the Over-Drive process. Bring your device and a laptop if you have one. Registration required.

Hoping to retire one day? Join fee-only financial planner John Spoto for his informational seminar, **Ingredients for a Secure and Healthy Retirement**, on Tuesday, February 1 from 6:30 to 9 pm. John will answer your questions on annuities, investment vehicles, and tax law, and his wife Helene will prepare a healthy dish for all to sample! Registration required.

On Sunday, February 13 from 2 to 4 pm for the **Lancaster premiere of *The Work of 1000***, a locally produced documentary about the cleanup of the Nashua River, which runs through Lancaster. The film tells the inspiring story of Marion Stoddart, a Groton, MA, citizen leader who spearheaded the effort. Following the film, Marion Stoddart and two other panelists will discuss grassroots organizing and coalition building. This program is funded by a grant from the Rosemary Davis Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. Tickets are free, but required.

Crafters, take note: Lisa Boutotte of Lancaster will host **Making Your Own (Pierced) Snowman Earrings** on Tuesday, February 15 from 6:30 to 8 pm. Lisa will provide all the materials you need for this fun workshop. There is a \$5 materials fee, payable that evening. Ages 13 and up, please. Registration required.

On Wednesday, February 23 from 1 to 3 pm, staff members of the New England Aquarium will bring their **Tidepool Open House** to Lancaster. They'll bring several small touch tanks so that children (not to mention adults!) can pick up starfish, sea urchins, and other small marine creatures. Don't forget to register, as space is limited. Funded by a grant from the Rosemary Davis Fund.

Looking for inspiration to finish that novel or ramp up your job search? Join **motivational speaker and coach Tom Ingrassia** along with licensed massage therapist Jared Chrudimsky on Tuesday, March 8 at 7 pm for **Mental Massage**, a powerful tool to help clarify your professional or personal life and set goals. Register soon!

In celebration of Women's History Month. Flapper **Zelda Fitzgerald** (played by professional actress Rita Parisi) will join us for a one-woman show on Tuesday, March 15 at 7 pm. **NOTE: No one will be admitted without a hat!** Come experience the Roaring Twenties with F. Scott Fitzgerald's flamboyant wife. Registration (and HAT) required.

For information or to register, call me at 978-368-8928, ext. 4, or e-mail nhclune@cwmares.org.

— **Nancy Hayes Clune**

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

C/W MARS' Most Wanted Movies

- 1 Eat Pray Love**
Julia Roberts and
Javier Bardem
- 2 Grown Ups**
Adam Sandler and
Salma Hayek
- 3 Inception**
Leonardo DiCaprio
and Joseph Gordon-
Levitt
- 4 Knight and Day**
Tom Cruise and
Cameron Diaz
- 5 The Sorcerer's
Apprentice**
Nicolas Cage and Jay
Baruchel
- 6 Toy Story 3**
Tom Hanks and Tim
Allen
- 7 The Expendables**
Sylvester Stallone
and Jason Statham
- 8 Eclipse**
Kristin Stewart and
Robert Pattison
- 9 The Kids Are All
Right**
Annette Bening and
Julianne Moore
- 10 How to Train Your
Dragon**
Ari Rubin and
Katherine Von Till



What are *you* going to do this winter?

If you have a 3- to 5-year-old (or you care for one), join Miss Susan for **Story Hour** most Thursdays 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. We welcome all children, including non-Lancaster residents. No advance registration is necessary. Join us January 6, 13, and 20; February 3, 10, and 17 (no Story Hour on the 24th); and March 3, 10, 24, and 31 (no Story Hour on the 17th).

Want to join a *really fun* teen group? Our **Young Adult Book Group** is looking for *new members*. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm for fun, discussion, and really great food! This club is for teens ages 13 through 18. We welcome all kids from other communities. Come Wednesday, January 26 from 6-7 pm for **YA ping-pong!** Funded by the Friends of Thayer Memorial Library.

On Thursday, January 27 at 10:30 am, join us for **Music & Movement with Jodi Lynn**. She will entertain us with listening activities, dance and multicultural games, and songs. Children will experiment with different types of instruments, participate in bean bag games, dance with scarves, and play parachute games. Don't miss this fun and unusual activity. No sign-up necessary, but space is limited. Paid for by the George Progin Estate.

It's time to Go Green! when it comes to making art. Have a blast using recycled materials to create everything from robots to self-portraits. During February, Mandy Roberge will offer two **Recyclable Art workshops**. The first, on Wednesday, February 17 at 1 pm, is geared toward children ages 3 to 7

(children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult; class limited to 18 children). The second workshop will be held on Thursday, February 24 at 2 pm for kids ages 7 and up (must be able to use a low-heat glue gun; class limited to 25). There is no fee, but registration is required. Paid for by a grant from the George Progin Estate.

Winter is a great time to sign up for an **American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Class**. On Friday, February 25 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm, students ages 11 through 15 will learn to perform first aid, make good, responsible decisions, find and interview for babysitting jobs, and supervise infants through school-age children. Class is limited to 12 students; registration is required. There is a \$45 fee per student (checks should be made out to *Linda Freeman* at time of registration), and students must be available for the entire class.

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, on Wednesday, March 16 at 6 pm, join Debbie and Tom O'Carroll for **The Magic & Music of Ireland**. Irish-born musician Tom and his magician wife Debbie created this program to introduce children to many different aspects of Irish culture. They use music, songs poetry, stories, props, and stage magic to enchant young audiences with the history, language, and customs of Ireland. This program is appropriate for ages 3 to adult. No registration is necessary, but space is limited. Paid for by the George Progin Estate.

For information or to register, contact me at 978-368-8928, ext. 5, or sconroy@cwmars.org.

— Susan Conroy

Susan Conroy is Thayer Memorial Library's Youth Services Librarian.

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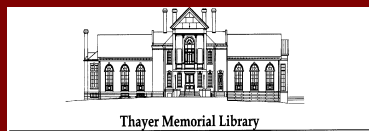
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Lancaster, Massachusetts

Library Friends call for volunteers

Happy New Year, Everyone!

The Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library raise funds for the Library. We sponsor a variety of children's and adult programs that are free and open to all. We also purchase some of the museum passes that patrons may borrow and pay for the quarterly printing of this very *CLARION* newsletter.

We are starting off the New Year with some new officers on the Friends' Executive Board. Kate Engelhardt, Chair, and Christiann Gibeau, Treasurer, are stepping down from their positions. We thank them for their significant contributions to the Friends. In turn, we welcome Susan Munyon, our new Chair, and Irene Roper, our new Treasurer. Susan Kadlec will continue as Vice-Chair and Marilyn Pagé will continue as Secretary.

Help! Help! Help!

*The Friends are out of sorts
We are stressed beyond belief
We feel every type of feeling
But the feeling of relief.*

*We need some kindly people
To help us sort some books
Which are now stacked in boxes
In the stairwell nook.*

Patrons donate books to the library. Some are kept for the library's permanent collection, and others are stored for the

Friends' Annual Book Sale, which is a HUGE fundraiser for the Friends and therefore the Thayer Memorial Library.

Donations we have received since our last book sale are now taking over the stairwell space. We need volunteers!

Help to sort donated books on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 pm, and take a free book as a "thank you" for your help!

Ask for Marilyn at the circulation desk, and I will explain the sorting process. Come any Wednesday and stay as long as you can. We are grateful for any time you can donate!

Welcome, New Friends!

Join us for our next **Friends' Meeting** the second Monday of each month from 7 to 8 pm in the Dexter Room. See you on February 14 and March 14!

In the meantime, if you have any questions or thoughts to share with the Friends, please send us a note to the following: friendsoftml@gmail.com.

— Marilyn Pagé

Marilyn Pagé is Secretary of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library.



eBooks (continued from page 1)

The thing that irks me is that people are being convinced that the minor inconvenience of picking up a book is somehow so compelling that it's better to just buy and download a copy from home. Stop the insanity, and save your money. Why do

people have to own something that can be theirs for free?

— Joe Mulé

Joe Mulé is Thayer Memorial Library's Director. Contact him at jmule@cwmares.org.