

Spring Preview:

- For a full listing of all the library's programs, log onto the Library's new website at the following:
<http://www.thayermemoriallibrary.org>



CLARION

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
THAYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Spring 2011

Volume 8, Number 2



Information is
the currency
of democracy

~Thomas Jefferson

News Flash!

The Friends' meetings are now on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 4 pm in the Trustees' Room. All are welcome!

In This Issue:

- **Motown, listening to landscapes and the call of the loon**
Page 2
- **Earth Day, animals and educational entertainment**
Page 3
- **What do you have in your closet?**
Page 4

Can we do without public libraries?

For some people, it's not obvious why a civil society should support and indeed patronize public libraries. Others believe that the institution of taxpayer-supported libraries is central to our democracy. With the advent of the Internet, and now eBooks, still others question whether public libraries have outlived their usefulness. Is it time to close the door on public libraries altogether?

I admit that I'm biased, but it's really hard for me to understand why anyone would want to take a position that somehow the world would be a better place if we just replaced public libraries with some other market-driven service. "Oh, but think of the money we could save if we didn't need to support libraries."

Let's look at the bottom line. In Lancaster, for example, residents pay around \$35 per capita *per year* for their library. Imagine if cable television, mobile phone plans, NetFlix or any other media-driven service cost so little. For that \$35, we provide access for thousands of people to almost any item found on Amazon.com, whether it's books, music, movies or audiobooks.

For those who can be persuaded, I'll list some of the reasons why we desperately need public libraries to flourish for communities to thrive. What about leveling the economic playing field between those who

choose to buy their media and those who can't even afford an Internet connection? And then there's the concept that in a free, civil and democratic society, access to information representing multiple points of view should be available to all. I will also add what for me is probably the most exciting reason citizens need public libraries – to promote creativity and experience the imaginative worlds that exist within us.

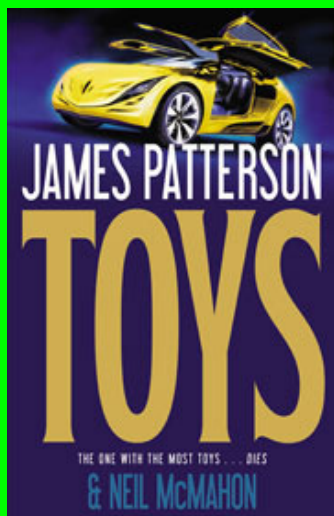
I call this the tickle factor. Others may call it the stuff that makes us who we are. These worlds come in the form of hobbies, leisure pursuits, pastimes and diversions – essential components of a well-rounded life. Why should life-long learning be accessible only to those who can afford it?

Libraries encourage entrepreneurial spirit in *all* things we do, whether it's opening a small business, learning a new language or watching a foreign film. As human beings, we owe it to ourselves to liberate the creative spark residing in each of us.

As Lancaster's library director, I don't expect that everyone should necessarily read (although I do think everyone benefits from reading.) My expectation is that people should have enough space in their lives that they wish to fill with something that tickles their fancy. Whatever that something is, the Thayer Memorial Library can help you pursue it and enjoy it more fully. *(Continued)*

C/W MARS' Most Wanted Books

- 1 **Sing You Home**
Jodi Picoult
- 2 **Tick Tock**
James Patterson
- 3 **Toys**
James Patterson
- 4 **Unbroken**
Laura Hillenbrand
- 5 **10th Anniversary**
James Patterson
- 6 **A Discovery of Witches**
Deborah Harkness
- 7 **Live Wire**
Harlan Coben
- 8 **Now You See Her**
James Patterson
- 9 **Room**
Emma Donoghue
- 10 **Cutting for Stone**
Abraham Verghese



Loons, landscaping and literature

After what seems like one of the longest winters on record, spring has finally sprung—Callooh! Callay!—and we have a terrific lineup of programs for adults during the warm-weather months. Whether you're a gardener, nature lover, Scrabble player or fiction fan, there's something for you at the Library.

Want a meeting place to play ping-pong, start a discussion group or create a craft circle? Stop in to book one of our free meeting rooms.

The **Monday Night TML Scrabble Group** meets at 6 pm. New word mavens are always welcome!

On Tuesday, April 19 at 7 pm, Lancaster native Merrilynn Braman will perform **Native American Flute Music**. She will play original songs about nature, inspiration and reflections on the Creator. She will also share Native legends and authentic artifacts. This free family program is sponsored by the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library. Music CDs will be available for purchase.

The Adult Book Group will discuss ***Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival*** by Normal Ollestad on Tuesday, April 26. On Tuesday, May 31, the group will discuss ***The Glass Castle*** by Jeannette Walls. And, on Tuesday, June 28, the book group will discuss ***A Reliable Wife*** by Robert Goolrick. Discussions begin at 6:30 pm and new members are always welcome!

On Tuesday, May 3 at 7 pm, John Rockwood, "the New Hampshire loon man," presents **The Life Cycle of Loons**, a multimedia narrated slide show featuring stunning close-up loon photos and focusing on the fascinating behaviors of these elusive aquatic birds. What are

they saying to one another with their weird calls? This program is sponsored by the Rosemary Davis Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. Rosemary Davis was a Lancaster resident with a passionate concern for nature and the environment.

Gardeners, take note: On Tuesday, May 24 at 7 pm, Scott LaFleur, Horticulture Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, will present **Listening to the Landscape**. Scott will share his thoughts on how to landscape and maintain our yards in a way that preserves precious water. Which plants and trees are best suited to low maintenance? What native plants work best in New England? This program will dovetail with the Lancaster Open Space and Recreation Committee's goals for water conservation education. Thanks to Cara Sanford for recommending this speaker. Sponsored by the Rosemary Davis Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Be sure to mark your calendar for a multimedia program on **MOTOWN and the Civil Rights Movement** on Tuesday, June 21 at 7 pm. Tom Ingrassia, a pop music historian and agent who has published more than 25 articles in popular music journals, will trace the development of the Motown Sound and its relationship to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s using archival video and music clips. Sponsored by the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library.

— **Nancy Hayes Clune**

Nancy Hayes Clune is Thayer Memorial Library's Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian. Contact her at 978-368-8928, ext. 4 or nhclune@cwmares.org.

C/W MARS' Most Wanted Movies



- 1 **The Fighter**
Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale
- 2 **The Social Network**
Brenda Song and Bryan Barter
- 3 **Red**
Bruce Willis and Helen Mirren
- 4 **Unstoppable**
Chris Pine and Denzel Washington
- 5 **Love & Other Drugs**
Hank Azaria and Jake Gyllenhaal
- 6 **The King's Speech**
Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter
- 7 **Hereafter**
Bryce Dallas Howard and Cecile De France
- 8 **Megamind**
Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill
- 9 **Due Date**
Robert Downey, Jr., and Zach Galifianakis
- 10 **The Tourist**
Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp

Awesome events for kids of all ages

What child doesn't love listening to stories and songs? And what better way to encourage the love of reading? 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. Story Hour dates are: April 7, 14 and 28 (no Story Hour on 4/21); May 5, 12, 19 and 26; and June 2, 9 and 16 (the last Story Hour of the season). Materials provided by Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library.

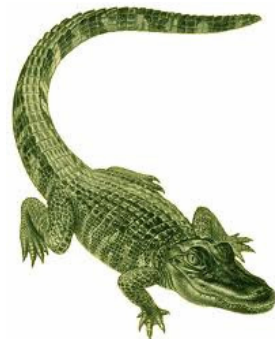
Do you know someone who'd like to join a REALLY FUN teen group? Our **Young Adult Book Group** is always looking for new members. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm (April 13, May 11 and June 8) for fun, discussion and terrific snacks! This club is for teens ages 13 through 18. We welcome all kids from other communities. We also have occasional movie nights and ping-pong events. Snacks are provided by Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library.

On Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 pm, **Jackson Gillman, the Stand-up Chameleon**, will perform *Spring into Action and Song*. No registration required; appropriate for ages 4 - 10. Paid for by a grant from the George K. Progin Estate.

Come hear storyteller Rona Leventhal sing songs and tell stories on Friday, April 22 at 1 pm in honor of **Earth Day**. Rona's songs and stories beautifully weave together drama, movement, songs and humor, encouraging audience participation and creating a joyful sense of community. This program is sponsored by the Rosemary Davis Fund of the Greater Worcester Community

Foundation in support of nature and the environment.

Join us on Thursday, April 21 at 3 pm for an awesome show presented by **Animal Adventures** of Bolton. Animal Adventures will bring a WILD assortment of creatures, including Big Al the Alligator, Rex the six-foot-long Asian Water Monitor, Flash the Ring-Tailed Lemur and a giant snake. This program is appropriate for all ages. Paid for by the George K. Progin Estate. Advance registration is required and priority will be given to Lancaster residents.



On Tuesday, June 29 from 2-4 pm, you won't want to miss *The Scoop on Poop*, an educational and entertaining program exploring animal digestion and waste. Matthew and Melissa Gabriel of **Animal World Experience** will bring a menagerie including rabbits, guinea pigs, lizards, snakes, tortoises and bugs to kick-off our joint **Summer Reading Program** and **Friends' Children's Book Sale**. Children of all ages will have an opportunity to pet the animals for a full hour following the event. Registration is required.

— **Susan Mello-Conroy**

Susan Mello-Conroy is Thayer Memorial Library's Youth Services Librarian. Contact her at 978-368-8928, ext. 5 or sconroy@cwmares.org.

Thayer Memorial Library Staff and Contributors

Joe Mulé

Director

Nancy Hayes Clune

Assistant Director and
Adult Services Librarian

Susan Mello-Conroy

Youth Services Librarian

Linda Ledoux

Senior Technician
and Office Manager

Janet Baylis

Page and Technician

Marcia Jakubowicz

Special Collection Clerk

Sandy Altucher

Page

Lisa D'Ambrosio

Page and Proofreader

Dot McCandless

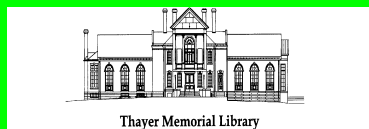
Page

Gail Prewandowski

Page

Christiann Gibeau

Newsletter and
Layout Editor



Thayer Memorial Library

Thayer Memorial Library

717 Main Street
Lancaster, MA 01523

Phone:

(978) 368-8928

Fax:

(978) 368-8929

Email:

jmule@cwmar.org

Website:

<http://thayermemoriallibrary.org>

This newsletter is produced with
funds raised by



Think Spring! And spring cleaning

The Friends are asking all patrons to **clean out your closets and bring us your books** as we prepare to sort, weed and process your treasures for our upcoming book sales. There's no better time of year to spruce up your life and simplify your home by ridding yourself of unwanted burdens. Consider your old VHS collection that has been surpassed by the newly owned DVDs and Blu-rays of today. What about your collection of Stephen King that no longer has its pages turned when you view the next novel on your iPad, Kindle, Nook or other reading apparatus?

Your old stuff can be turned around to benefit a whole community of people who may not have the means or the inclination to purchase new and improved materials. So, if you're in the mood to lighten your load and you want to help support your neighbor, then come on over to the library and bring us your gently used treasures and we shall put them to good use either as part of the library's collection or as part of one of our book sales. And yes, you are eligible for a tax deduction.

What! You're not interested in spring cleaning, but are eager to collect MORE books as part of your growing collection? Well then! What if we told you that you could get a free book for every day you help us sort and

weed through these donations? Just join our *Book Sorters Club* on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 – 5:00 pm. Then you can be the first to gain access to the plethora of authors, topics, music, films and other treasures. Please ask for Marilyn at the Circulation Desk, and she will explain the sorting process to you. It's that easy!

Book sales, you say? Indeed. The Friends have multiple book sales throughout the year. The next event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29 at 1 pm as the Library kicks-off its annual **Summer Reading Program** in tandem with our **Children's Book Sale**. This event benefits the younger members of our community. And, if you haven't done so already, each person under 13 may become a Little Friend member of the Friends, which benefits them with three free books at each of our book sales including the Children's Book Sale in June. So, sign up as soon as you can to get the benefits of this summer event.

For more information, please visit the Thayer Memorial Library's new website at <http://www.thayermemoriallibrary.org> and select "Friends" on the top menu bar.

— Susan Munyon

Susan Munyon is Chairman of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library. Contact her at 978-466-1877 or friendsoftml@gmail.com.

Libraries (continued from page 1)

For hunters, we have access to books and magazines about rifles and bows; for gamers, we offer Wii and other game titles for all tastes; for movie aficionados, we can get just about any title under the sun. And, yes, for people who love

reading, we even have books.

— Joe Mulé

Joe Mulé is Thayer Memorial Library's Director. Contact him at 978-368-8928, ext. 3 or jmule@cwmar.org.