

# The Norfolk Library Owl

Vol 24 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORFOLK LIBRARY

July 2015



## Gilded or Golden?

Isabella Eldridge must have been very brave. She decided to hold the grand opening of the Library she had built for the town almost a year to the day after the Blizzard of 1888, one of the worst blizzards in American history, paralyzed the northeast with as much as 55 inches of snow. She was lucky. March 6, 1889 dawned clear and cold, and Isabella welcomed guests from 4 o'clock to 8:30 in the evening. She arranged for a program of afternoon and evening music played by George Robinson's orchestra of New Haven. To the strains of the romantic Honeymoon Waltz, guests admired Isabella's beautiful floral arrangements, framed prints mounted on the ends of the stacks, and tapestries hanging from the balcony rails. This winter we celebrated the 126th birthday of the Library on March 7 and began the capital campaign that will fund its restoration.

Although the Library as we know it today opened its doors in 1889, the first Norfolk Library was born some sixty-seven years earlier in 1822. That Norfolk Library was a subscription library. It had a written constitution and bylaws, but it had no building. It was a traveling library. All the

books were housed in an oak bookcase, and the bookcase periodically traveled from house to house, the homeowner serving as temporary librarian. Among the custodians was Aaron Gilbert, a tailor who lived in an octagonal house. It was said that he dispensed books and clothes with equal cheerfulness.

The purchase of books for this early Norfolk Library was closely monitored by a committee of three. At one time Isabella's mother, Sarah Eldridge, served on the committee. Isabella's father, the Rev. Joseph Eldridge, kept an impressive library of his own in the parsonage, now Battell House overlooking the Village Green. With this

background in librarianship, it was natural that Isabella would have thought to build a library as a suitable memorial to her parents after they died. But perhaps there was another reason she wanted to build a library. Article 9 of the Norfolk Library Constitution of 1822 reads: "Novels and romances shall not be purchased for the Library." Perhaps Isabella chafed at the restriction "no romances." She was after all 29 years old at the time of her mother's death, unmarried, and she was a romantic. We don't know whether she read romances, but the Library would not have been designed the way it was, were she not a romantic.

Flying in the face of Norfolk convention and family tradition, Isabella boldly chose an architect completely new to Norfolk. Hartford architect George Keller had never designed a library, and his materials of choice—russet brownstone and terra cotta tile—had not been used here before. But he was a disciple of one of the greatest 19th century American architects, Henry Hobson Richardson, whose work included five extraordinary libraries. The similarity between these great libraries and the Norfolk

*Gilded or Golden, continued on page 3 ...*

# LIBRARY | DIRECTOR

If you had entered the Norfolk Library when it opened its doors in March of 1889 and approached the stacks, you would have passed under a wooden fretwork screen bearing the letters: S I L E N C E I S G O L D E N (see photo page 12). Libraries then and throughout most of the 20th century were quiet places, primarily repositories for books with an extensive collection of encyclopedias and other reference materials. One Norfolk patron remembers entering the Library seventy years ago as a young schoolgirl and being cautioned that she must be on her best behavior and use her small voice.

As the Internet became an information resource and e-readers threatened to supersede books in print, many predicted the demise of the public library. In fact, the 21st century library is busier than ever. It is a place for social interaction as well as quiet reading; a community center as well as a repository of books and information, now more often accessed through wireless Internet; a place for instruction and collaborative learning. The changing role of libraries is at the forefront of new library design these days with the emphasis on a welcoming space that promotes a sense of community.

At the Norfolk Library we are lucky to have a building that has accommodated this changing role, enabling us to be in the vanguard of these emerging trends. There are still quiet spaces for people to read and explore among the books and magazines, but also spaces that foster social interaction and collaborative work. Our Great Hall and Children's Room support programming for all ages, enhancing the sense of community.

In *A New Culture of Learning: Cultivating the Imagination for a World of Constant Change* (Douglas Thomas and John Seely Brown, 2011), the authors envision a type of learning through the play of the imagination that grows along with the technology that fosters it. Perhaps that is why creativity, innovation, and the makerspace movement have become buzz words in library design. Simply put, a makerspace is a community center that provides resources and tools such as 3D printers, robots, or drones that enable people to design and create. At the Norfolk Library, we now have a portable Children's Makerspace. You can find out more about it in this issue.



To celebrate National Library Week in April, we asked patrons what makes libraries special. These are some of the responses: "freedom!" "you can read books you never heard of before" (age 6); "for education, for entertainment, a shelter from the storm;" "the library allows me to travel around the world without a passport!;" "libraries provide people with new ideas and stories that open up their minds;" "a place to relax;" "it's a great social gathering place to learn about everything;" "I met my first good friend in this very spot." As the summer season gets underway, I hope to see you at the Library.

## NORFOLK LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## NORFOLK LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

*The Associates is a group of dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and talents to support the Library. They organize monthly art exhibitions and raise funds for the cultural programs offered by the Library. The group welcomes new members. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at noon in the Great Hall.*

David Davis, President  
Linda Bell, Vice-President  
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### *Gilded or Golden, continued...*

Library is striking.

Richardson's career coincided with the rise of public education and the spread of interest in cultural development, leading to the creation of many small public libraries, such as the Norfolk Library, donated by patrons for the improvement of various New England towns. His five library designs, in his signature Richardson Romanesque style featuring robust stonework and rounded arches, evoked the hallowed halls of learning built in the Middle Ages. The hallmark of this romantic Victorian work is the structural use of color, reflected in such materials as russet brownstone, granite, multi-colored slate, and terra cotta tile.

Late Victorian buildings, such as the Norfolk Library, might appear to us excessive in their visual display, but this does not reflect the conspicuous consumption of a Gilded Age. Rather it is the mark of the romantic mind. Moving away from classical reason and order toward feeling and imagination, architects such as Richardson and Keller found inspiration in the untamed wilderness, as did writers such as Emerson and Thoreau and artists such as those of the Hudson River School. Architects began to use the colors of the American landscape—deep reds and ochres—and picturesque features such as prominent roofs, steep gables, turrets, and towers.

Richardson's five libraries were designed in the decade before the Norfolk Library was built. Many of their features will be familiar to us: the warm wooden stacks, wooden barrel vault ceiling, and balconies with low rails, as seen in the Ames Free Library (1883) at North Easton, Massachusetts, pictured here; and the red tile roof and stair tower turret of the Crane Library at Quincy, Massachusetts (1880-1882), called the best village library in the country when it was

built. Gargoyles populate the eaves, like the owl that hovers over the entrance to our library.

Isabella probably began thinking about the design of her library in 1886 when George Keller's Soldiers



Thomas Crane Library

and Sailors Memorial Arch was dedicated in Hartford. Undoubtedly she knew about Keller's monument, and she was most likely familiar with the Victorian buildings that had risen in Hartford over the past decade including Richardson's Cheney Building and George Keller's G. Fox building next door, where she and her sisters may have shopped.

It is also likely she had read Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer's series "Recent Architecture in America" including her 1884 article on Richardson in the popular *Century Magazine*. Before building the Library, Isabella had opened a reading room for these kinds of periodicals. A pioneering female architectural critic, Mrs. Van Rensselaer published her biography of Richardson in 1888 in a limited edition. It propelled the architect into fame. The Norfolk Library has number 73 in that first limited edition of 500 and it likely belonged to Isabella. In it she would have read about the five libraries Richardson designed which Mrs. Van Rensselaer described as "conspicuous among his best products."

Looking at these libraries, it is clear that Isabella Eldridge and George Keller were inspired by Richardson's extraordinary body of work. Mrs. Van Rensselaer's description of his work touches on the notion of organic unity, a theme that would become important to the identity of modern architecture in the 20th century: "Each of his best buildings is an organism, an entity, a coherent vital whole. We cannot dismember it in thought without hurting both what we leave and what we take away. ... Every part of a Richardson library is integral to the whole."

This description works as well for the Norfolk Library, which is why its restoration in keeping with the original design is so important. This is not gilded architecture. Rather it is a monument of Norfolk's Golden Age of Architecture, as described by Brendan Gill, one of a number of remarkable buildings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Ames Free Library



The Norfolk Library

# LIBRARY | PROGRAMS

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

### SUNDAY SPEAKERS IN JULY

**Bisi Starkey:** *John V. A. MacMurray: Photographs of Peking, 1913-1929*

**Sunday, July 19, 4:00 pm**

During his career in the Foreign Service in China, John V.A. MacMurray took over 1,600 photographs of timeless landscapes, noted sites, and rural scenes. Bisi Starkey will talk about her father's work and the family's experience in China. She has been adjunct lecturer at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Museum teacher at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Her family has summered in a camp on Doolittle Lake for many years.

**Libby Borden and Robert Hobbs:** *The Recluse Collector: Grenville Winthrop*

**Sunday, July 26, 4:00 pm**

Libby Borden will be joined by art historian Dr. Robert Hobbs in a slide talk on the collection of her great uncle Grenville L. Winthrop (1864–1943). A lawyer and banker by profession, Winthrop created a collection of French, British, and American art that is distinct not only in its depth and breadth, but also in its quality and includes the best group of Delacroix and Ingres drawings outside of France, the most significant group of pre-Raphaelite paintings outside of Britain, and a world-renowned collection of Sargent watercolors. The Winthrop Collection was bequeathed in 1943 to the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University.

### The Norfolk Land Trust: Moth Night

**Wednesday, July 22, 8:30 pm**

Ever seen a pale green luna moth or a hummingbird moth and wonder why they are attracted to light? Entomologist Brigitte Zacharczenko from the University of Connecticut will lead a brief program at the Library and then move to the village green to attract moths by shining bright lights on a white sheet.

### Documentary Film: *The Grand Rescue*

**Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 pm**

In 1967 on the North Face of the Grand Teton, seven rescuers risked their lives to save two climbers. One of those

Teton Rangers was Pete Sinclair, brother of Norfolk's Ernie Sinclair. This film exposes the tenuous relationship between man and mountain and recounts one of the most infamous rescues of its time.

## FALL PROGRAMS

### Charles Fidler's Exploration of Walt Whitman's Poetry

**Sunday, September 13, 4:00 pm**

Walt Whitman, arguably America's greatest poet, invited readers to examine his "songs", as he called his lyric poems, through a musical lens. Acclaimed professional singer and choral conductor Charles Fidler will bring his wealth of musical knowledge to a recitation of Whitman's poetry, using rhythm and melodic contour to invoke the musical setting.

### Norfolk: A Documentary by Christopher Little

**Saturday, September 19, 4:00 pm**

"Unquestionably the best documentary produced about Norfolk in the last year" (*Norfolk Now*), this long-awaited film will make its public debut at the Library. Highlights of the film shot in four seasons include:

- stunning aerial views shot from a DJI Quadcopter (the same model that crashed on the White House lawn)
- poems, profiles of talented Norfolknians, a brief history, and many town events
- Yale's and the StoECKels' contribution to Norfolk, including the installation of the cupola
- curling, sapping at Great Mountain Forest, Christmas on the Green and in the Library, Tobey Pond, the Farmers' Market, and much, much more.

Wine and light hors d'œuvres will be served after the film (approximate running time: 35-40 minutes), and DVD's will be for sale.

### Shakespeare's Powerful Women: Three Evenings with Three Characters

**Mondays, September 21, October 5 and 19, 7:00 pm**

Shakespeare created many powerful, interesting women. Hosted by Kim Maxwell, this series of evening screenings and discussion will feature three such women—Juliet, Portia, and Lady Macbeth—and how they negotiate their

# LIBRARY | PROGRAMS

way in a world dominated by men. Themes of convention, money, and seduction emerge. Each Shakespeare play will be paired with a popular modern movie: *Romeo and Juliet* with *Shakespeare in Love*; *Merchant of Venice* with *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; and *Macbeth* with *The Graduate*. Interleaved clips from the paired movies will be shown prior to discussion.

## Adam Paul Heller: Hand-carved Stone Sculpture, Lettering, and Design

Sunday, October 18, 4:00 pm

Adam began carving stone under the tutelage of Benedictine artist Sister Baxter at the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, CT. An apprenticeship with MacArthur Fellow Nicholas Benson at the John Stevens Shop in Newport, Rhode Island, immersed him in the tradition of hand carving and brush lettering. Adam now owns and operates his own studio in Norfolk, working solo and with other artists, architects, and designers to create fine art pieces and memorials throughout the country and abroad. Adam will talk about his craft, calligraphy, and the rich resources he draws from in carving stones.

## Author Talk: Cynthia Wolfe Boynton, *Connecticut Witch Trials: The First Panic in the New World*

Sunday, October 25, 4:00 pm

Connecticut's 17th century witch hunt was the first and most ferocious in New England, occurring almost fifty years before the infamous Salem witch trials. Through newspaper clippings, court records, letters and diaries, author Cynthia Wolfe Boynton uncovers its dark history.

## Peter Rogers: Mount Everest and the Earthquake in Nepal, A First-Hand Account

Saturday, November 7, 4:00 pm

Experienced mountain climber Peter Rogers will recount his adventures climbing five of the seven highest peaks in the world, including Mount Everest. Peter was at Camp One when the earthquake hit.

## Great Mountain Forest Talk: Buddy Huffaker, president of the Aldo Leopold Foundation

Saturday, November 14, 4:00 pm

## Author Talk – Rinker Buck, *The Oregon Trail*

Date TBA

The #1 Indie Next Pick for July 2015, Rinker Buck's *The Oregon Trail* is an epic account of traveling the length of the Oregon Trail the old-fashioned way—in a covered wagon with a team of mules, an audacious journey that hasn't been attempted in a century. The author is no stranger to grand adventures. His first travel narrative, *Flight of Passage*, was hailed by *The New Yorker* as "a funny, cocky gem of a book," and with *The Oregon Trail* he brings the most important route in American history back to vibrant life, chronicling the rich history of the trail, the people who made the migration, and its significance to the country. At once a majestic journey across the West, a significant work of history, and a moving personal saga, *The Oregon Trail* draws readers into the journey of a lifetime.



## Annual Carol Sing

Saturday, November 28, 5:00 pm

## The Norfolk Library Book Group with Mark Scarbrough

This lively group of readers meets from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on select Fridays. Anyone may join at any time. This fall the group will discuss international bestsellers.

- August 14: Michel Faber, *The Crimson Petal and the White* (2002)
- September 11: Minae Mizumura, *A True Novel* (2013), part 1
- September 25: Minae Mizumura, *A True Novel*, part 2
- October 16: Amara Lakhous, *Clash of Civilizations* (2008)
- November 13: Alina Bronsky, *The Hottest Dishes of the Tartar Cuisine* (2010)
- December 11: Timur Vermes, *Look Who's Back* (2015)

# EXHIBITION | PERFORMANCE

## EXHIBITION

### Turi Rostad: *Recalculating*

#### JULY EXHIBITION

Turi Rostad is a contemporary artist based in Norfolk whose work is punctuated by her vibrant spirit and originality of vision. Her art is optimistic, and her colors lush and lively. Energetic, spontaneous form infuses her canvases and drawings. Turi's work will be on view during the month of July.

### Dave Gloman

#### AUGUST EXHIBITION

*Opening reception: Sunday, August 2, 4:00-6:00 pm*

Dave Gloman is a Senior Resident Artist at Amherst College where he has been teaching since 1992. He paints landscapes directly outdoors in and around the Connecticut River Valley in Western Massachusetts. A native of Northern Indiana, Dave received his BFA from Indiana University and an MFA in Painting from Yale University. His paintings reflect the light and linear geometry he experienced as a child growing up in the plains. A 12-foot box truck converted into a mobile studio allows him to paint in any weather condition and to work on a very large scale creating distilled visual experiences of specific places.



### Janet Andre Block

#### SEPTEMBER EXHIBITION

*Opening reception: Sunday, August 30, 4:00-6:00 pm*

Based in Salisbury, Janet Andre Block has shown in solo and group shows in the Northwest corner and as far afield as the Venice Biennale. She spent a year at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and is currently enrolled in a Masters of Studio Art at NYU where she is studying printmaking with Kiki Smith. Janet's work in oil, acrylic,

and ink uncovers the hidden architecture and resonance of objects in abstracted paintings of flowers, fruit, and other structures.

### Susan Rand

#### OCTOBER EXHIBITION

*Opening reception: Sunday, October 4, 4:00-6:00 pm*

Susan Rand returns to the Norfolk Library in October, having had her first solo exhibition here in 1999. Her subject matter is rooted in the local scenery—a barn, a landscape, a familiar stream. She has shown her paintings throughout Connecticut and the East Coast and has held several artist residencies at the Vermont Studio Center. She lives with her family in Salisbury.

### Rick Schatzberg: *Twenty Two North*

#### NOVEMBER EXHIBITION

*Opening reception: Sunday, November 1, 4:00-6:00 pm*

Route 22 is a mostly rural, two-lane highway that runs from the Bronx to the Canadian border, all within New York State. With his camera, Brooklyn and Norfolk resident Rick Schatzberg has explored the towns and countryside



of its entire length, looking at it as a river made of asphalt and time. "We have to be taught to see here, because here is everywhere, related to everywhere else," poet William Carlos Williams wrote in a review of Walker Evans' classic, *American Photographs*. For Rick, this modest landscape not far from home is as good a place to learn to see as anywhere, to recognize what is exceptional about the seemingly ordinary.

### Nina Ritson

#### DECEMBER EXHIBITION

*Opening reception: Sunday, December 6, 4:00-6:00 pm*

Nina Ritson is a printmaker and painter who paints the

# EXHIBITION | PERFORMANCE

places she loves most - at home in Norfolk. She concentrates on etching and printmaking during the fall and spring and dedicates the winter and summer to watercolor. When not painting landscapes, she is illustrating animals and the magnificent architecture of the area.

## PERFORMANCE



### A Celtic Music Concert: Colleen Raney and Hanz Araki

*Tuesday, July 21, 7:30 pm*

Among the finest interpreters of traditional songs of her generation, Portland, Oregon's Colleen Raney grew up inspired by the Irish and Scottish songs and tunes in the rich Irish community in Seattle, Washington. Her four solo CDs have staked her claim as a serious presence in Celtic music today and provoked *Hearth Music* to enthuse, "Singing with a deep love for the tradition and the dark poetry of Celtic song, Colleen has been drawing new life from old ballads and renewing our love for Celtic music." Colleen will perform with Hanz Araki, internationally-recognized flute player and singer known for his fresh and innovative approach to traditional Irish and Scottish music. The son of a Japanese shakuhachi Grand Master, Araki Kodo V, and a Scots-Irish mother, his musical sensibility is both inspired and disciplined and has made him a household name from the UK to Japan. *Irish Music Magazine* writes that Araki is "an Irish music phenomenon in West Coast America" and recently called Raney "among the best in her genre."



### Concert: The Press Gang

*Friday, October 16, 7:30 pm*

Formed in 2009, Irish instrumental trio The Press Gang features Chris "Junior" Stevens on concertina and button accordion, Alden Robinson on fiddle, and Owen Marshall on bouzouki, guitar, and harmonium. From their home base in Portland, Maine, the group tours widely in the northeast and recently performed a series of concerts in the Pacific Northwest. Consummate performers, The Press Gang win their listeners' hearts with their humorous stage presence as well as their musicianship. Stevens and Robinson's tight squeezebox-fiddle duo twines at the core of the band's sound, propelled by Marshall's imaginative and highly rhythmic accompaniment. "The Press Gang is one of those rare bands that are ingenious, driving, thoughtful and yet have great respect for the tradition."



Dubbed "the hottest Irish acoustic group on the planet" by the *New York Times*, Lúnasa played at the Library this year in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

## Staff &amp; Patron Picks

***Code Name Verity*** by Elizabeth Wein

Set in 1943, this novel is a heartbreaking story of war, adventure, fierce hope, and the courage it takes to be true to yourself. Two young women, best friends, fly a spy plane over Nazi-occupied France and crash. I read this story a couple of years ago when it first came out, and I still can't get it out of my mind. Appropriate for teens and adults, it is compelling, carefully-researched historical fiction that will fly into your heart and not be forgotten.

—Eileen Fitzgibbons

***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr

Shortly after I finished reading this beautifully-crafted novel, it won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. I wasn't surprised. Since it has received that honor and others, it is probably not necessary to feature it as a staff pick. But just in case you haven't read it, you are in for a treat. The lives of two children immersed in the horrors of war are interwoven through short chapters that draw the reader into the compelling narrative and have us wondering how the threads will come together at the end.

—Ann Havemeyer

***Empire of the Summer Moon*** by S. C. Gwynne

This is a riveting history of the Plains Indians, in particular the Comanche tribes, led by half-breed Quanah Parker, the fiercest of Comanche warriors. Gwynne's style is beautiful, effortless, and utterly readable, literary history of the highest order.

—Christopher Keyes

***The Girl on the Train*** by Paula Hawkins

We know some of you are waiting impatiently for Gillian Flynn's next thriller. She's a master of twists and turns until the last page. But while we're waiting, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins will serve as a fantastic replacement. This debut novel follows Rachel, our unreliable narrator, as she drunkenly tries to piece together the night a murder occurs. Two other narrators appear, serving as glimpses into sad, somewhat pathetic, and always bone-chilling pasts. It's hard to swallow but hard to put down. Try it on audiobook! The voice actors are brilliant and will have you white-knuckling your steering wheel while listening to it in the car. It's worth it.

—Nicole Thornton

***The Oxford English Dictionary*** (2nd ed., 1989, 20 v.)

As the definitive record on the English language, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) is a great resource for winning a disagreement about a word. In a *Downton Abbey* episode, the term 'black market' is used. Was that term really in use in England during World War I? In dictionaries of current English, the focus is on present-day meanings. The OED has the meaning and history of 600,000 words, from year 1150 to the present day. You can look up a word and see when it was first introduced into the language and how the meaning of the word has changed over time. 'Black market' was introduced to the language in 1941 and is used twenty years before its time in that *Downton Abbey* episode. Why pay for online access to visit OED.com, when you can visit the Second Edition of this 20-volume treasure at the Norfolk Library?

—Leslie Battis

## DVDS

If you enjoy "cozy" British mysteries, try these new series: ***Grantchester***, season 1; ***Father Brown***, seasons 1–2; and ***Death in Paradise***, seasons 1–3. Cozies are typically low in murder and mayhem and are long in good casting, character development, conversation, and local scenery. *Grantchester* is set in 1953 in a town outside of Cambridge, England, and features the local vicar, Sidney Chambers (James Norton) interacting and solving crimes with Detective Inspector Gordie Keating (Robson Green). *Father Brown*, local parish priest (Mark Williams), does his crime detecting in a little town called Kempleford in the lovely Cotswolds. His skills are not always appreciated by the local police, but he always manages to administer last rites to the victims and apprehend their assailants. *Death in Paradise* is a visual delight with lots of palm trees and flowers on the island of Saint-Marie in the Caribbean. The Honore police force stands by while the chief detective looks for answers using techniques similar to Hercule Poirot. If you prefer something with a lot of murder and mayhem, try ***The Following*** starring Kevin Bacon. It is not for the faint-of-heart! We have Seasons 1–2, and don't say I didn't warn you...

—MaryAnn Anderson



## Yale University Press Selections

I had the good fortune of being able to peruse the Yale University Press catalog to choose the Library's annual selection of books through the Starling W. and Jane Coffin Childs Fund, established in 1937. These are among the broad range of books that will soon be on our shelves.

—Ann Havemeyer

### ARTS AND CULTURE

- Peter John Brownlee et al, ed., *From Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic: Landscape Painting in the Americas*. A richly illustrated survey of the traditions and stylistic evolution of landscape painting in the Americas.
- Robin Jaffee Frank, ed., *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, 1861-2008*. A captivating look at Coney Island and its iconic place in American art.
- Sylvia Fraser-Lu and Donald M. Stadtner, *Buddhist Art of Myanmar*. A landmark publication synthesizing the history of Myanmar and Buddhist works of art.
- Leo Jansen et al, ed., *Vincent van Gogh. Ever Yours: The Essential Letters*. The artist's correspondence offers detailed insights into his complex inner life and re-creates the artistic avant-garde that was taking hold in Paris.

### HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

- Michael Bundock, *The Fortunes of Francis Barber: The True Story of the Jamaican Slave who became Samuel Johnson's Heir*. Brings to life the extraordinary relationship between a former slave and England's most distinguished man of letters.
- James Fairhead, *The Captain and the Cannibal: An Epic Story of Exploration, Kidnapping, and the Broadway Stage*. The improbable saga of an American sea captain and the New Guinean nobleman who became his stunned captive, then ally, and eventual friend.
- Steven Gimbel, *Einstein: His Space and Times*. A revealing new portrait of Albert Einstein as the brilliant scientist actively engaged in international affairs.
- Martha Hodes, *Mourning Lincoln*. How did individual Americans respond to the shock of President Lincoln's assassination? Diaries, letters, and intimate writings reveal an untold story.

- Rory Muir, *Wellington: Waterloo and the Fortunes of Peace, 1814-1852*. From the leading Wellington historian, a fascinating reassessment of the Duke's most famous victory and his role in the turbulent politics after Waterloo.
- Janet Polasky, *Revolutions without Borders*. A sweeping review of 18th century revolutionary ideas and how they crossed oceans and borders throughout the Atlantic world.
- Jonathan Rose, *The Literary Churchill: Author, Reader, Actor*. A remarkable portrait revealing the profound influence of literature and theater on his life and politics.

### FICTION

- Ansel Elkins, *Blue Yodel*. 2014 Winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets prize, the oldest annual literary award presented in the United States to showcase works of exceptional poets under the age of forty.
- Máirtín Ó Cadhain, *The Dirty Dust*. Long-awaited English translation of an irresistible and infamous novel ranked as the most important prose work in modern Irish.

### NATURE/ENVIRONMENT

- Deborah Cramer, *The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey*. The 9,000-mile journey of the red knot from the tip of South America to the arctic tundra is followed in this narrative as urgent and eloquent as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.
- Dieter Helm, *Natural Capital: Valuing the Planet*. Hard-hitting recommendations for what must be done to reverse environmental destruction.
- Pieter van Dokkum, *Dragonflies: Magnificent Creatures of Water, Air, and Land*. A gorgeous tribute to the magic and mystique of dragon flies, with photographs of their entire life cycle.
- Bill Vaughn, *Hawthorn: The Tree That Has Nourished, Healed, and Inspired Through the Ages*. An engaging introduction to the ancient hawthorn tree and its varied roles in human history.

## Restoration Update

Construction will begin on our roof restoration project this summer. We have a hired Alden Bailey, specialists in tile roofing, to install the terra cotta tiles, which are being custom-made in Colombia, South America, to match the 1888 originals. Work is scheduled to be completed by November. Thanks to all who have responded so generously to the capital campaign! Phase 2 of the Library restoration will begin next spring. For information about the project, brochures are available at the Library.

## Farewell to a Long-time Associate

Mary Ann McGourty has been a Norfolk Library Associate almost as long as the group has been existence. She joined the Associates in 1977, three years after it was founded. Initially a small group of ten women who met over lunch in the upstairs Conference Room, the Associates did not want to be a “Friends” group, whose primary mission was fundraising. They were to be a service affiliate of the Library, organizing exhibits, concerts, and special events. An Events Calendar was printed three times a year with Mary Ann in charge. Others who played an important part in developing the Associates mission and contributing to its success were founding members Martha Walcott, Tibby Robinson, Pam Collins, and Ruthann Olsson. The book sale became an annual tradition in 1976 and, with fundraising success, our cultural programs have grown in size and scope turning the Library into a spirited community center. Thanks to Mary Ann for many years of dedicated service to the Library both as an Associate and a Trustee. We wish her well in Georgia.

## iPad Basics with Nicole

Have questions about the latest technology? On Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00, our Library Assistant Nicole Thornton will teach you tips and tricks on how to better understand your iPad and iPhone. To get started, be sure to have a working Apple ID and password. Classes are scheduled for:

- Sunday, July 19th: Assistance, Siri, and Notetaking
- Sunday, July 26th: Email, iCloud, and Storage
- Sunday, August 9th: Library Applications
- Sunday, August 16th: Social Media & News Applications

Nicole will also be available every Thursday afternoon to help you with your devices.

## Summertime Story Hours

Beginning July 8, Miss Eileen will be at Tobey Pond on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 for special story hours for all ages. Come sit at the water’s edge and listen to stories about heroes. And for our littlest listeners (ages 6 months to 3), there will be a story time at the Library on Monday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:00.



The Heller family makes!

## Our New Makerspace

When most people think of libraries they think of books. But the Norfolk Library is a place of community engagement. So we have initiated a Makerspace in the Children’s Room. Popular in libraries, a Makerspace is a place with tools that allow patrons to create, design, and build with other community members. Our Makerspace is designed for young families and is portable. At the Circulation Desk, your child can check out a colorful mat to work on and newly acquired toys with which to design and build. This time encourages connection, creativity, and conversation. After your child’s project is built and admired, the parts go back into the container and are checked in along with the mat. Come be part of a new trend this summer!



Mia Heller with makerspace mat.

## The 2015 Summer Reading Program at the Norfolk Library

The summer reading program is underway with prizes for children who complete the check-out challenge: “Every Hero Has a Story” log. Special events exploring the theme “What makes a hero?” are scheduled for Monday evenings through August 10 with one super special author visit on Wednesday, August 5.



In June children painted superhero lawn figures, marking the start of our summer reading program.

### Heroes of the Animal Kingdom

**Monday, June 29th, 6:30 pm.**

In this interactive, educational program you will meet a diversity of animals that lead heroic lives. Animal Embassy introduces us to Animal Ambassadors such as an African bullfrog, red-foot tortoise, an eclectus parrot, a Chilean rose hair tarantula and maybe an owl!

### Superhero Poster Workshop

**Monday, July 6th, 6:30 pm.**

Come learn what a cartoonist really does! Pretend you work for Marvel comics... What would your superhero look like? 1.5 hour workshop with Debi Hamuka-Falkenham.

### Heroes Puppet Show and Puppet Making

**Monday, July 13th, 6:30 pm.**

Be enchanted by Caravan's Puppets as they bring heroes from literature to... puppet life! With beautiful puppets, humor and interaction, children of all ages will see what makes a hero, how they are all around us, and how YOU can be one. Children may create a simple puppet to be part of this show, so reservations are required. 1.5 hour program.

### Underground Railroad: Fact or Fiction?

**Monday, July 20th, 6:30 pm.**

Jan Doyle is the executive producer, writer, and host for Classroom Connection365, a public access show dedicated to deepening the educational experience for families. Learn

about the heroism of the Underground Railroad. This program is for children 6 years and up.

### Superbirds

**Monday, July 27th, 6:30 pm.**

Look, it's a Bird... Ever wonder how birds do all the fantastic things that they do? Get up close and personal with Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center's super flying machines!

### So You Want to Be A Hero? Cape-making Workshop

**Monday, August 3rd, 6:30 pm.**

Hopefully this summer you have been thinking about what makes a hero super. In this workshop we will explore that question while we create our own superhero capes. Reservations are required by July 13th for this program. 1.5 hour workshop.

### Author Marc Tyler Nobleman and Super Snacks

**Wednesday, August 5th, 3:00 pm.**

We are so lucky and super thrilled to have this author come to the Library. His books include *Boys of Steel: the Creators of Superman* and *Bill the Boy Wonder: the Secret Co-Creator of Batman*. Mr. Nobleman will be selling his books after his talk. Reservations are required for this event.

### Science of Superheroes

**Monday, August 10th, 6:30 pm.**

Embrace your power! Grab your mask! Cape on! Fly to the library lawn for the Science of Superheroes with Mad Science. Explore superhero physics; what are the differences between comic book and real-life superheroes? Pack your picnic dinner, beach chairs, and blankets, and we will serve a super sweet treat!

A black and white illustration of a beaver sitting in a pond, reading a book. The beaver is holding the book open with its paws. There are ripples in the water around the beaver.

Where you find the coolest books!  
**The Norfolk Library BOOK SALE**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**August 22nd & 23rd**  
(And please bring your donated books in ASAP!)

## THE OWL

The Norfolk Library  
9 Greenwoods Road East  
Post Office Box 605  
Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

[www.norfolklibrary.org](http://www.norfolklibrary.org)  
ph. 860 542-5075

Monday	10:00 am	–	7:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am	–	5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am	–	5:00 pm
Thursday	10:00 am	–	5:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am	–	5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am	–	2:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm	–	4:00 pm

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