

The Norfolk Library Owl

Vol 24 Issue 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORFOLK LIBRARY

January 2015

A Look Back 30 Years: Building the Children's Room

Has it really been thirty years since the Smith Children's Room was added to the Library? The bustling center for myriad story times, from the Kindergarten Kids program on Monday afternoons to Happy Baby Days on Thursday mornings, the Children's Room provides a dedicated space for children's activities and services which previously had been crowded into the front room of the Library, now the Harden Reference Room.

In 1888 when the Library was built, the front room was designated a Conversation Room, a comfortable place to sit and chat with neighbors and friends. At that time, there was no Great Hall, which was added in 1911. The Library's needs changed over the years, and the Conversation Room was adapted for children's books with a large bookcase put in front of the fireplace and round tables replacing the occasional chairs. As the Library approached its Centennial, plans were made to address the need for more spacious quarters for its children's services.

Ground was broken in June of 1984, and the room opened the following year. Designed by Alec Frost of the firm Moore & Salisbury, the small wing was constructed with brownstone cut from the same quarry that provided stone for the original 1888 structure and the 1911 addition, both designed by Hartford architect George Keller. The



Builders as well as librarians? Louise Schimmel and Barbara Allyn heave the last stone into place.

result is an addition that is seamlessly integrated with the Keller design. The hall entry to the children's room included new lavatory facilities, within which the original exterior wall of the Library remains visible.

During construction, the Director of the Library Louise Schimmel documented progress with snapshots (see page ?). The ground-breaking ceremony took place on a rainy day in June and was attended by Abel I. Smith, who donated a large portion of the funds used to build the addition. A month or so later the slab was poured. Who could resist drawing initials in the moist cement, or setting the last brownstone block in place. Trustee and member of the Building Committee Tibby Robinson was ever present, observing and cheerleading.

Echoing both the spirit and design of the Library, the Children's Room incorporated a play nook with a faux-tile roof, a cozy place to curl up with a book. From adaptive reuse of rooms originally intended for a different purpose to the construction of a dedicated space, the Library continues to meet the needs of our patrons while respecting the beauty and integrity of the building's original design.

LIBRARY | DIRECTOR



What a joy it has been to serve as Director of this wonderful Library for the past six months! Thank you all for your warm welcome. Although I sit at the Director's desk, I am always aware of the incredible support provided by an active and dedicated Board of

Trustees, a knowledgeable and friendly staff, a devoted group of Library Associates, and you, our loyal patrons. Without all of these arms of support, the Norfolk Library would not be the special place that it is.

In this issue of *The Owl*, we look back on aspects of our history. A big part of the Library's successful growth was the foundation and innovation provided by past Directors: Louise Schimmel who served for 22 years, shepherding the construction of the Smith Children's Room and bringing the Library into the automated age, while retaining a personal touch and welcoming atmosphere; Mary Lou Wigley whose professionalism shaped the Library's presentation and services as we entered the 21st century; Robin Yurán

and Rich Dann whose warmth, hospitality, and expertise permeated the Library; and Luisa Sabin-Kildiss, whose tenure brought significant technological upgrade.

As we head into 2015, we begin an important restoration project that will preserve our historic building for future generations. Many libraries look institutional from the outside. Drive by the Beardsley and Memorial Library in Winsted or the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, and you would never mistake the building for someone's home. The Norfolk Library is different. The warm colors and textures of its brownstone and tile exterior and the inviting entrance at the corner overseen by a wise owl have a domestic quality that is both appealing and inviting. This was the intent of the Library's founder Isabella Eldridge, who wanted the barefoot child to feel as at home in the Library as the bibliophile and who named her library the Norfolk Library, not the Eldridge Memorial Library. A plaque hanging on the wall outside the Reference Room was presented to Isabella on the 20th anniversary of the Library in 1909 and provides testament to her success. Take a close look at it sometime, and you will notice that it includes the names of the district schoolchildren together with those of the most illustrious Norfolk residents.

Today the Library remains the same vital hub of activity with cultural programs, musical performances, art exhibitions, literature seminars, discussion groups, and, of course, books, which will always hold the primary place on our shelves and are at the heart of our calling.

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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.

Louise & David Davis, Co-Presidents

Linda Bell, Vice-President

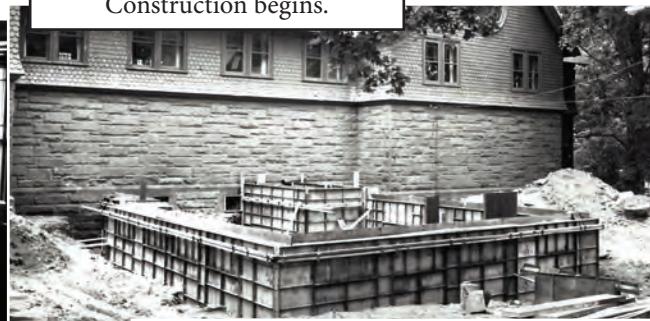
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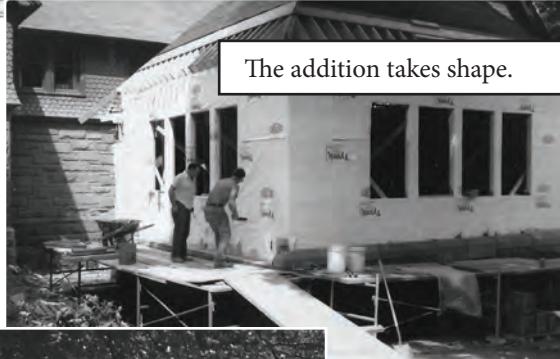
SCRAP | BOOK



Construction begins.



Bookshelves cover the fireplace.
Before (above): Children's Room
After (below): Harden Reference Room



The addition takes shape.



MaryAnn Anderson,
Tibby Robinson,
Barbara Allyn observe.
Wrap-around skirts
were the fashion then!



LIBRARY | PROGRAMS

LECTURES

Susan Campbell Brings Isabella Beecher Hooker back to Norfolk

Sunday, February 8, 3:00 pm

Isabella Beecher Hooker was no stranger to Norfolk. An ardent supporter of women's suffrage and sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe, she and her husband John spent several summers in a cottage on Maple Avenue. Author Susan Campbell will speak about this pioneering woman and her legendary family on Sunday, February 8, at 3:00. Campbell's recently published book *Tempest Tossed: Isabella Beecher Hooker* has received critical acclaim.

Russel Wright: Nature, Modernity, and Design

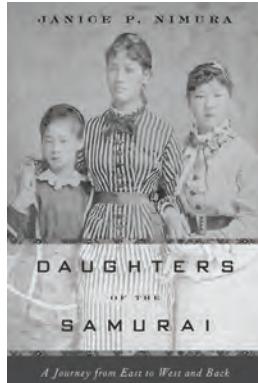
Saturday, May 9, 4:00 pm

Design Historian Dianne Pierce will give a lecture about the work and ideas of Russel Wright, an important mid-twentieth century designer. Wright's designs, including the enormously successful "American Modern" dinnerware, brought Americans into the Modern era and changed their ways of living. Dianne has offered to lead a field trip on June 6 to Manitoga, Wright's fascinating home in Garrison, NY, where he integrated nature, experimented with materials, and created an orchestrated "wild" landscape.

Janice Nimura, Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back.

Sunday, May 24, 4:00 pm

In 1871, five samurai girls were sent by the Japanese government to the United States. Their mission: learn Western ways and return to help nurture a new generation of enlightened men to lead Japan. Three of them—aged 11, 10, and 7 when they arrived—grew up as typical American schoolgirls. Ten years later they returned to Japan determined to revolutionize women's education. New York and Colebrook author Janice Nimura tells their extraordinary story—in which both Norfolk and Colebrook make cameo appearances—in her new book, scheduled for release in May.



Great Mountain Forest Series

Saturday, January 17, 4:00 pm

Director Hans Carlson will give a presentation entitled "The Great Mountain and the Great River: Your Local Working Forest in a Global Historical Context".

Saturday, April 25, 4:00 pm

Mark Jones, former Connecticut State Librarian and biographer of Senator Frederic Collin Walcott, will speak about Walcott's role in natural resource preservation. Walcott founded the Childs Walcott Preserve in Norfolk [now GMF].

SEMINAR

The Unbearable Heaviness of Something Small

Kim Maxwell returns this spring with a continuation of his seminar series addressing this thought-provoking theme through the works of Shakespeare (*King Lear*) and Faulkner. The seminar will meet on alternate Saturdays in May and is limited to 12 participants.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Story Hours

Sharing language through books, songs, puppets and other materials helps children develop a strong foundation for reading success. The early literacy programs at the Library promote school-readiness skills and nurture life-long readers. Story hours begin the week of January 26th. Pre-registration is required. Happy Baby Days are Thursdays at 11:30 am.

- Story Hour for Wee Ones (3-year-olds): Wednesdays from 10:15 to 11:00 am.
- Pre-School Lunch Bunch: Wednesdays around 11:30 am. Children tumble off the bus, eat their lunch together, listen to stories, and create crafts.
- Kindergarten Kids story hour: Mondays, 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

Corner Club

Corner Club is an after-school enrichment program for children of all ages, held on the last Wednesday of the month.

LIBRARY | PROGRAMS

Programs range from magic shows and nature discovery workshops to theatrical performances and concerts. This winter we are adding a mid-month Corner Club on the 2nd Wednesday of the month with interactive games, puzzles, and crafts. Pre-registration is not necessary so plan to have your child get off the bus at the Library and have FUN.

Page-turners Return

Readers in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades are invited to be part of the Page-turners Reading Group, beginning in January. The Library will provide the books and, after a couple of weeks to read the tale, we will gather for discussion. Miss Eileen also provides a "story stretcher," an activity that encourages connection to the characters in the story. Check school flyers and our website for more information.



DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Levitated Mass (2014)

Monday, Feb. 2, 7:00pm

Los Angeles has a new rock star. Originally conceptualized in 1968, Levitated Mass is Michael Heizer's controversial work of art, a 150 million-year-old granite boulder more than 21 feet high and weighing 340 tons. The journey of the megalith to its final resting place over a 456-foot-long concrete slot at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art brought together the art community, public officials, and the general population to debate the merits of a giant stone suspended above their heads, while examining the question: "What is art?"

Herb and Dorothy (2008)

Monday, Feb. 9, 7:00 pm

No list of art documentaries would be complete without Megumi Sasaki's award-winning film about middle-class art collectors Herbert and Dorothy Vogel. A retired postal worker (Herb) and librarian (Dorothy), the couple built a world-class 20th century collection on their salaries, and kept thousands of works of art in their one-bedroom apartment in New York. In 1992 Herb and Dorothy transferred the collection to the National Gallery of Art, where it could be

viewed free of charge. The film offers an indelible look at how love and a love of art intertwine.

Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has To Travel (2011)

Monday, Feb 23, 7:00 pm

She launched Twiggy, advised Jackie Onassis, and made waves at the Factory and Studio 54. This is an overview of the Empress of Fashion's fifty-year reign and a celebration of one of the most influential women of the 20th century. Vreeland was the fashion editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, and later editor-in-chief of *Vogue*. *The Eye Has To Travel* was described in *The New York Times* as dizzily enjoyable: "you may find yourself thinking with an increasing fervor that, yes, wearing violet velvet mittens with everything is a fantastic idea." (Sept. 20, 2012)

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry (2012)

Monday, March 2, 7:00 pm

This award-winning documentary provides the inside story of Ai Weiwei, China's most famous international artist and most outspoken domestic critic. First-time director Alison Klayman gained unprecedented access to Ai while working as a journalist in China. Her detailed portrait provides a nuanced exploration of contemporary China and one of its most compelling public figures. *Never Sorry* was named one of the top ten movies of 2012 (*New York Magazine*).

THE NORFOLK LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

WITH MARK SCARBROUGH

Come to the Library on select Fridays and you will find out why Mark calls himself the "discussion wrangler." This lively group of readers meets from 10:30am to 12:30pm, and anyone may join at anytime.

- **Jan 9:** Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881), ch 1-19
- **Jan 23:** Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881), ch 20-38
- **Feb 6:** Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881), ch 39-55
- **Mar 13:** Diago Mairardi, *The Fall: A Father's Memoir in 424 Steps* (2012)
- **April 10:** Elena Ferrante, *Those Who Leave And Those Who Stay* (2014)
- **May 15:** William Faulkner, *Go Down, Moses* (1942)
- **June 12:** Kate Atkinson, *Human Croquet* (1997)

EXHIBITION | PERFORMANCE

EXHIBITION

Three Norfolk artists are on the roster for upcoming exhibitions. Leslie Watkins, Shirley Metcalf, and Wayne Jenkins will exhibit their work at the Library along with other regional artists this spring in shows that feature a variety of media and visual expression. Art exhibitions at the Library are researched, scheduled, and designed by the Art Committee of the Library Associates: Angie Engle, Kristin Mudge, and Leslie Battis. Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers for their countless hours of work.

Jim Koplar

FEBRUARY EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, January 25, 4:00–6:00 pm

The 2015 season begins with lifelong Connecticut native, Jim Koplar, whose work in pastel includes still life, seascape, and portraiture. Jim has conducted workshops in the area and has a studio in Winsted's Whiting Mills complex.



Gail Easton, Molly Lally, and Leslie Watkins: Botanicals

MARCH EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, March 1, 4:00–6:00 pm

A bounty of exquisite botanicals will grace the walls of the Library in March in a group show featuring two area artists and Norfolk's own Leslie Watkins. Based in North Canton, Gail Easton works watercolor as dry brush, finding strong meaning behind the subjects she depicts: "If I place my brush on a work done even long ago, I can recall the scents, sounds, moments that were embraced with the act of painting." Molly O'Neill-Lally also uses a dry brush watercolor technique and smooth hot pressed paper to bring forth a clear representation of flowers during precise phases of growth. Her passion for watercolor began under the tutelage of internationally respected painter and illustrator, Arthur Getz, through the Washington Art Association. In her stunning botanicals, gentle brush strokes, smooth shadows and translucent highlights capture the beauty and delicate nature of every flower.

Leslie Watkins needs no introduction to Norfolk residents. As an artist, she is well known for her botanical watercolors and landscape oils. Her work has been featured in books, magazines, greeting cards, postage stamps, and a broad range of decorative items. She designed in-house at Tiffany & Co.'s design studios in New York and has exhibited at The Columbus Museum, The Lyman Allyn Art Museum, The National Arts Club, The Salmagundi Club, The Union League Club, The Hudson Valley Art Association, The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, The Lyme Art Association, Northwestern Connecticut Community College, and as far afield as Japan.



"Paphiopedilum maudiae",
©2014, Leslie Watkins

Shirley Metcalf

APRIL EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, March 29, 4:00–6:00 pm

Shirley is a professional mixed-media artist who creates paintings and installations using traditional and non-traditional materials such as paint, soy wax, dye, pigments, paper, silk, cotton, and thread. Metcalf works out of her studio in Norfolk and exhibits her work locally and nationally. She holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Clarkson University, a BFA in Painting from the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, and has studied with several masters of surface design, including Elin Noble and Jane Dunnewold. Metcalf is the owner of Stitching Along Maple Studio which provides long arm quilting services to quilters and designers.

Wayne Jenkins

MAY EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, April 26, 4:00–6:00 pm

Wayne returns to the Norfolk Library where he first began exhibiting his work in the mid 1970s. A self-taught oil painter of landscape and wildlife, Wayne's work reflects his love of the natural world. He is president of the Housatonic Valley Art League, a collective of 150 artists, and a member of Norfolk Artists and Friends.

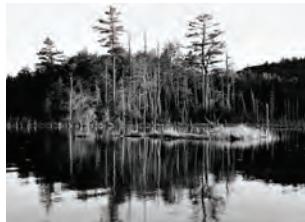
EXHIBITION | PERFORMANCE

Jim Jasper

JUNE EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, May 31, 4:00–6:00 pm

Jim Jasper first came to Norfolk as a nineteen-year-old student at the Yale Summer School. The memory of that first summer remains strong: “I remember feeling really awed by nature for the first time—it was so dark on a moonless night that I couldn’t see my outstretched hand. It made a huge impression on me.” Jim studied photography with Michaela Murphy. Inspired by the landscape, he returned to Norfolk many years later to live and work as an artist.



PERFORMANCE

Darlingside in Concert

Sunday, January 11, 5:30 pm

David Fricke of *Rolling Stone* described Darlingside as “a quartet with a rich line in acoustic textures and chamber-rock dynamics.” The band’s sound, characterized by classical strings, tight vocal arrangements, bluegrass and rock instrumentation, and smartlyricism, is the product of complete



collaboration among the four close friends, graduates of Williams College. Guitarist Don Mitchell’s musical

training began when he was a chorister in Norfolk-based Chorus Angelicus. Darlingside recently returned from a West Coast tour.

The Norfolk Festival Listening Club with Jim Nelson

Saturday, January 24, 3:00 pm

Jim Nelson and his popular Norfolk Festival Listening Club return to Norfolk with a program featuring a string quartet from the Yale School of Music and Beethoven’s quartet op. 18 no. 4. Designed to be fun and engaging, this is an opportunity

for both the experienced concertgoer and the classical music novice to enjoy an informal discussion of chamber music among friends, old and new. No background in music is necessary—all you need is an active curiosity about music. All members of the audience are encouraged to participate with questions and comments of their own.

Blues/Folk Band The Stacks, featuring Grammy-winning fiddler Tania Elizabeth

Saturday, February 21, 7:30 pm

Blues and gospel collide with kitchen-party fiddle riffs and crystal clear vocals in the music of The Stacks. Come tap your feet as singer-songwriter-guitarist Andy Stack and Grammy-winning fiddler Tania Elizabeth and their Americana band fill the Library’s Great Hall with music that is described as an intoxicating blend of old and new. “...Brilliant fiddle player Tania Elizabeth was one of the highlights of the festival. Elizabeth played a Celtic-inspired fiddle instrumental that was no short of mind-blowing...” —Ed Jack, *American Songwriter Magazine*



The Elm City Winds

Saturday, March 28, 3:00 pm

In March the Elm City Winds blow into the Library with their varied repertoire ranging from classical to contemporary. This active woodwind quintet is now in its third decade performing not only music written for woodwinds but also their transcriptions of music written for everything else, from solo piano to full orchestra. You won’t want to miss the rich sounds of woodwinds filling the Library’s Great Hall

St. Patrick’s Day Concert

The Norfolk Library’s celebration of St. Patrick’s Day has become an annual event for fans of the Emerald Isle. Once again we will host a lively evening of traditional Irish music and fare in March. Date and details soon to be announced!

Great Reads: Staff & Patron Picks

The Shadow of the Wind (2004) *Carlos Ruiz Zafón*

Perhaps it is because I have spent many happy hours in the archives going through old books that the so-called Cemetery of Forgotten Books—Zafón's library of carefully preserved titled—immediately drew me into this novel. The author's exquisite and atmospheric use of language kept me there, immersed in the fog-bound streets of Barcelona as if in a painting by Claude Monet.

—Ann Havemeyer

The Complete Stories Of J.G. Ballard (2009)

J.G. Ballard

In 2001 Ballard said, "Short stories are the loose change in the treasury of fiction." If true, this collection of stories amounts to a bank vault's worth of rolled change, edifying a unique voice. Dystopian, psychologically themed, and prescient, this is a great bedroom nightstand book

—Christopher Keyes

Yes, Please (2014) *Amy Poehler*

There seems to be a recent trend involving funny ladies writing memoirs. In this sea of what could soon be considered a cliché, Amy Poehler's memoir shines. Drawing from her experiences as an improv artist, comedy writer, mother and daughter, Poehler excels at showing the reader what it means to be a strong woman.

—Nicole Thornton

Fangirl (2013) *Rainbow Rowell*

Cather Avery is struggling to survive her first year at college with anxiety issues, without her twin sister by her side, all while trying to maintain her popular presence in the Simon Snow fan fiction world online. Rainbow Rowell is an important author in the young adult fiction world, taking coming-of-age experiences and making them relatable and magical for everyone.

—Nicole Thornton

Flashlight (2014) *Liz Boyd*

This children's book reminds me of the evening walks I took as a young mother with my three sons. Artfully set on darkened pages, the story illustrates how a beam of light is so magical to children. A small boy explores the mysteries

of night, shining his torch into the woods. There are no wild beasts to be afraid of, just playful creatures of the forest. Read this enchanting book, stuff a flashlight in your pocket, and take your little one out in the dark for a night to remember.

—Eileen Fitzgibbons

Vera

If you are a fan of British mysteries, check out the DVD detective series Vera, which is based on the novels of Ann Cleeves. DCI Vera Stanhope, played by Brenda Blethyn, is a loner, cantankerous and a bit short tempered with her colleagues, but you soon discover she is a good person at heart and come to respect her and her style of solving crimes. We recently acquired Set 4 but, if you are new to this series, be sure to start with Set 1 and see how Vera's personality softens. The acting, writing, and scenery of the Northumberland villages all contribute to a well-done series.

—MaryAnn Anderson

Plenty More: Vibrant Vegetable Cooking from London's Ottolenghi (2014)

In this sequel to *Plenty*, Ottolenghi puts a Middle Eastern spin on vegetarian recipes that are easy to prepare, with ingredients that are not hard to find [if you look online]. This chef is able to raise basic veggies like eggplant to exotic heights. New flavors and taste sensations abound in these culinary creations.

—Chaya Berlstein

Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America and the Fight for Cumberland Island (2014)

Will Harlan

A book that kept me spellbound! Like Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, Carol Ruckdeschel heroically defends wildlife [sea turtles] and their habitat. Read this and then read *The Sixth Extinction*.

—Marilyn Davidson

The Orchardist (2012) *Amanda Coplin*

Stunning first novel for this author, *The Orchard* is historical fiction at its best, set in rural Washington State at the turn of the 20th century.

—Daryl Eaton

Top Ten of the Top Tens

Not all book reviewers publish “top ten” lists at the end of the year. We thought it would be interesting to see which books appeared most on a few Top Ten Best Books lists for 2014. We compared The New York Times (NYT) and The Washington Post (WP); Publisher’s Weekly (PW) and Library Journal (LJ); and Slate Book Review (S). We added NPR to the mix, although those editors did not limit their choices to ten. Only one book made it on four of the above lists: *The Sixth Extinction*. A close second was *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, which appeared on three lists.

NONFICTION

The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolber—Science journalism is at its best in this eye-opening report by New Yorker staff writer Kolbert on the devastating impact of humans on our planet. (NYT, NPR, WP, LJ)

Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David by Lawrence Wright—A Pulitzer Prize-winning author reconstructs and reflects on “one of the great diplomatic triumphs of the twentieth century” and the men who made it happen. (NYT, NPR, PW)

Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir by Roz Chast – “A revelatory and occasionally hilarious memoir by the New Yorker cartoonist on helping her parents through their old age.” (NYT, NPR, S).

The Empathy Exams by Leslie Jamison—“A beautiful and punishing collection of essays about the difficulties of understanding others in the world we live in ... A fierce, razor-sharp, heartwarming nonfiction debut.” (NPR, PW, S)

On Immunity: An Inoculation by Eula Biss—“Brightly informative, giving readers a sturdy platform from which to conduct their own research and take personal responsibility.” (NYT, PW)

FICTION

A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James—A fictional investigation of the attempted assassination of reggae star Bob Marley days before Jamaica’s 1976 general election. “Epic in every sense of that word: sweeping, mythic, over-the-top, colossal and dizzyingly complex.” (WP, PW, LJ)

Some Luck by Jane Smiley—The lives of an Iowa farming family unfold in a work “both grand and intimate offering a wide-angle view of the country midcentury and a significant feel for life at the time.” (NPR, LJ, S)

Bark by Lorrie Moore—A collection of stories “at times maddening but often heart-piercing, from a master of the form who refuses to stand still.” (NPR, PW, S)

The Paying Guests by Sarah Waters—“An exquisitely tuned exploration of class in post-Edwardian Britain.” (NPR, WP, S)

Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay by Elena Ferrante —The third in Italian novelist Ferrante’s riveting series of novels about the complications of female friendship. (NPR, PW, S)

A Not-So-Coveted Award from the *Literary Review*

Some well-respected novelists have been recognized with an award they might not want to put on their resume: the Bad Sex in Fiction Award. Established by the Literary Review in 1983, the award was intended to “name-and-shame” authors of “poorly written, perfunctory or redundant” passages of erotic encounters in literary fiction. Finalists for this year’s award included Booker-winners Richard Flanagan and Ben Okri, Japanese literary star Haruki Murakami, and Pulitzer-Prize-winning novelist Michael Cunningham. Nigerian-born writer Okri won the dubious honor for an “over-the-top” passage in his novel *The Age of Magic* (*Head of Zeus*, 2014). Most recipients have accepted the prize with good humor, including Tom Wolfe, Sebastian Faulks, the late Norman Mailer, and the late John Updike, who was awarded a Bad Sex Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.

BEHIND | THE | SCENES

Patrons do not usually climb the spiral staircase in the turret to the second floor offices of the Library, but if they did they would find our Catalog Librarian MaryAnn Anderson at her computer hard at work. MaryAnn prepares bibliographic records describing items acquired by the Library. It is important work that enables patrons to easily access and retrieve material in the collection.

What does it take to be a successful Catalog Librarian? In addition to the requisite professional knowledge and technical skills, a recent article in the American Library Association's *Public Library Journal* described ten essential qualities for success: competence, accuracy, efficiency, consistency, adaptability, judgment, problem solving, commitment, research ability, and self-discipline. Those who have worked with MaryAnn know that she embodies all of those qualities. Especially important has been her ability to adapt to new technology. The library world is changing more rapidly than ever these days, and a Catalog Librarian has to be flexible enough to quickly learn how to use the new features and adapt to changes in the existing system.

As a Catalog Librarian, MaryAnn works most of the time alone and independently. But she has not always been behind the scenes. She came on board as Circulation Assistant, just a few years after moving to Norfolk with her husband Bruce, minister at the Church of Christ, and their four young sons Eric, Jonathan, Robert and Timothy. Those were the days before the present circulation center was built in 1985, and MaryAnn, Barbara Allyn, and Shirley Hunter sat at a knee-hole desk checking out books by writing patrons names (and sometimes a brief description of the patron if names were momentarily forgotten) on the due date card before stamping it. At that time catalog cards were typewritten, and separate cards for author, title, and subject



Although window cleaning may not be in the job description, all hands were on deck during the construction of the Children's Room in 1984-85.

were sorted alphabetically in a large wooden card catalog. During the 1980s, the Library switched to a computerized catalog database, and the old card catalog was relegated to the upstairs stacks where it lives today. Barcodes were generated and inserted in the books. In 2001 the Library joined a consortium of libraries, and catalog records were made uniform.

Today the Library participates in the Bibliomation consortium using the Evergreen Integrated Library System with uniform catalog records. Although records are no longer generated in-house, MaryAnn continues to adapt the record summary to our readership, allowing for easier access. She attributes her knowledge of Norfolk patron use to her years of experience at the circulation desk, saying circulation and cataloging go hand in hand. Her special literary interest is mysteries, and she has overseen the Library's collection in that genre in addition to recommending DVDs, large print books, and audiobooks. See her recommendation for a great BBC mystery series on DVD in Book Banter (page 8).



Barcode books with Gene Billings

NEWS | AND | NOTES

Fireside Fridays Return

The fire will be lit in the Great Hall fireplace once again on Friday afternoons this winter as we welcome patrons and bridge players alike to enjoy its warmth. Bridge will begin on February 6 and continue every Friday (except Feb. 13) through March 27. Bridge players of all levels are invited to participate in this popular and challenging game from 2:00 to 4:30. For more information, please contact Turi Rostad (turirostad@gmail.com).

Norfolk's Five-Star Library

By now you are sure to have heard that the Norfolk Library was once again awarded five stars by the *Library Journal* and is one of only two libraries in the state to achieve that designation (Greenwich is the other). But you may not know on what basis this recognition is determined. Introduced in 2008, the *Library Journal's* Index of Public Library Service is a measurement tool that compares libraries with their spending peers based on four categories: circulation, visits, program attendance, and Internet use. It should be no surprise that the Norfolk Library particularly excels at cultural programming, for both adults and children. This in turn increases the number of visits and the circulation of material. It is a tribute to the Library Associates who raise the funds and help plan our educational, entertaining, and exciting programs.

Associates Auction

Are you dreaming of an escape to the Caribbean, a ski adventure in the Rockies, a week on the coast of Maine? The Norfolk Library Associates are planning a fundraising auction for 2015 that will include all these items and much more. Although the date and time have yet to be finalized, you won't want to miss this fun event which, like all Associates' initiatives, supports the Library's cultural programs. From the children's Corner Club and the Norfolk Library Book Group to concerts, exhibitions, and author talks, our cultural programs remain a key component in our status as a five-star library. The Auction Committee has already received a bounty of donations for both the silent and live auction, so be sure to stay tuned!

Our Interns

Xavier Rodriguez and Amelia Lockwood are ably serving as Library Interns this year, mentored by our knowledgeable staff Chris Keyes and Nicole Thornton. A senior at Northwestern Regional, Xavier has been on the job for over a year while Amelia, a junior, is quickly learning the ropes. You'll find their cheerful faces behind the circulation desk on Saturdays and Sundays.

Museum Passes

If you're looking for an outing this winter, don't forget that the Library has passes to some of Connecticut's finest museums. These offer free or reduced admission and can be checked out just as you would a book.

- **Connecticut Historical Society** (Hartford, CT)
Free admission for up to 2 adults and 4 children
- **Connecticut's Old State House** (Hartford, CT)
Free admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children
- **Florence Griswold Museum** (Old Lyme, CT)
Free admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children
- **New Britain Museum of American Art** (New Britain, CT)
Free admission for up to 4 people
- **Peabody Museum of Natural History** (New Haven, CT)
\$5 off admission for an individual up to 4 people
- **Wadsworth Atheneum** (Hartford, CT)
Free general admission for 2 adults and 2 children

RAGtime at the Library

Ragtime is a novel, and a musical, but at the Library it is the new Readers Advisory Group, avid readers who contribute their ideas about additions to our collection. If you would like to participate, stop in at the office and speak to Ann.

LIBRARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Our calendar is now published monthly in Norfolk Now. Please check for upcoming events, dates, and times, and visit our website at norfolklibrary.org

THE OWL



Do you recognize this room? Now the Harden Reference Room, it was designated a Conversation Room when the Library was opened in 1889.

THE OWL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORFOLK LIBRARY Editor: Ann Havemeyer. Design/Layout: Ann DeCerbo.

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