



FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 2011 to May 2011

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

Forbes Library Solicits Public Input for SECOND STRATEGIC PLAN

In order to offer Northampton residents the best possible library service, the Forbes Library has convened its 2011 Strategic Planning Committee to develop its next five-year plan. Chaired by Library Trustee Bonnie Burnham, the 14-member committee will study the needs of the Northampton community, analyze the library's strengths and weaknesses, and develop goals, objectives, and a practical plan of action. A larger committee representing a broad cross-section of community members will also be convened.

"We need up-to-date feedback from city residents in order to focus our next five-year plan," says Library Director Janet Moulding. "We've worked hard to achieve the goals we established in our 2006 long-range plan. Now it's time to re-evaluate, so that we can continue to make the library a welcoming place that is integrated and responsive to the community."

"Strategic planning is standard practice among Massachusetts's public libraries today, and is required of libraries seeking to ap-
see PLAN, page 6

CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT ROOM RENOVATION

THANK YOU!

The 2010 Annual Fund was an overwhelming success! Special thanks to the Friends of Forbes Library; Mo, Cher and Trixie Willems; and all of the wonderful library supporters who gave generously to this very necessary project this past year.

Our friends and patrons will see some very dramatic changes in their beloved Children's library. The renovations are complete and include new paint, carpeting, lighting, furniture, book-cases, a dedicated teen space, toys, technology and a new gated entryway.

see RENOVATIONS, page 4



4th ANNUAL EDIBLE BOOKS EVENT

Please join us for the fourth annual Edible Book Event at Forbes Library on Sunday, April 3rd at 2:00pm. This fun afternoon is a joint fundraiser of the Friends of Forbes and Friends of Lilly libraries.

Pick up an entry blank at the main desk or on the library's website and then let your imagination and your clever ideas lead you to a favorite book that you can represent in a totally edible way. Previous entries include the books *Twilight*, *Washington Square*, and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

This event has become a wonderful community event for families and individuals, and has grown each year. Some attendants create, and some people just come to appreciate. Once the entered books are displayed and viewed and judged, everyone gets to eat them! The registration deadline to enter an edible book is Wednesday, March 30th. No need to pre-register to come and view all the creations. Admission to the event is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families, groups and businesses.

We hope to see you there!

MEET OUR STAFF

Stephanie Levine is one of the friendly people in the Children's Department at Forbes. Originally from Queens, NY, Stephanie came to Forbes as a student worker during her senior year at Smith College. Although she did not concentrate on child studies at Smith, Stephanie had an internship at a pre-school in Pistoia, Italy, during her junior year abroad, working in the library of the school. She says that coming from a family of teachers, she was leaning toward working with young people. How remarkable for Forbes that based on her student experience in the Children's Department, she has chosen to work with children and has now been at the library for 10 years.



STEPHANIE LEVINE

As one of two assistants to the head of the Children's Department, Stephanie can often be found at the circulation desk. She also conducts a monthly young adult book group, something she's been doing for a few years now. She chooses the first book herself, combining it sometimes with a project or a craft, but the members of the group choose the books every month after that. Stephanie says that she reads a lot of young adult books on her own so that she can be as helpful and informed as possible with

that age group, 11-14 year olds. Two of the most popular books they read recently were *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar.

In January of this year she began a craft-of-the-month program, working with the same age group as the monthly book group. And to keep her hand in with younger library users, she also conducts Toddler Time, a weekly story time with pre-school children that takes place year-round.

Stephanie loves working in the Children's Department. She loves the enthusiasm of children, and she describes the space as a warm, friendly community where the staff know the names of the children and parents who come in. The staff members in turn are like local celebrities, Stephanie says, even hailed on the street by children and families. She says it has been very exciting to be at Forbes during the recent renovations to the department. If you haven't been in to the department lately, do stop in and see all the wonderful colors and changes, and have a chat with Stephanie!



CORRECTION

In our Winter Issue we misidentified our partner for the fall wine tasting fundraiser. Spirits were donated by Liquors 44 in Northampton.

FOOD FOR FINES

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Food for Fines program. 781 pounds of food was brought to the Northampton Survival Center for those in need in our community.



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News From The Friends

Frosty winter days and cold dark nights brought enthusiastic attention to our winter raffle baskets in February. Over 900 tickets were purchased, and many encouraging comments were delivered by patrons who reported that they were happy to support the library in this way. The Valentine basket was won by Susan Rees, the Winter Comforts was claimed by Mike Carey, and the Children's Basket went to Marcy Waliser.

Recently, the Friends purchased a new computer, and a new microfilm reader and printer for the library. This new machine will allow articles retrieved from newspapers to be sent to others via email, rather than needing to photocopy, and then mail them, as had been the case since the service began, decades ago. This will be a great improvement for patrons doing local history research, and it will save the staff a lot of time fulfilling requests from a distance.

In case you do not have your ticket yet, you still may be able to purchase one for the Friends of Forbes fundraising trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on Sunday, April 10th. Take a friend, take a child, take a sister, or come alone, as we are a very friendly group. Look for a flyer at the main desk, or on the website, or call 665-0924 with inquiries.

Ever so slowly, we are inching toward spring, and... to the Friends June Garden tour. The chosen flowerbeds are awakening, and awaiting their time in the sun. Please join us, and tell your friends to mark their calendar for Saturday, June 11, 2011.

Need a reason to donate money to the Friends? We collect dollars through memberships, donations, and fundraisers to support the library. Recently, we have funded renovations to the Children's Room, hundreds of book purchases, and pastel art classes for patrons. We even support staff attendance at professional conferences to help them expand their knowledge and improve services. Are you a Friend yet? Please add your support to the approximately 400 hundred current members, and make us stronger.

Do you have a desire to serve the library? The Friends are looking for potential future Board members. Each April, the terms of some Board members expire, and vacancies occur. If you are interested, please speak to one of the Board members, who are listed on the library's website, or call 665-0924 or 585-0209. We'd love to discuss this opportunity with you.

Still looking, yes we are, for a car donation to serve the Outreach Program. The library's outreach vehicle (which was a donation) is ready to retire. A car that is good on gas is hoped for, and a hatchback would be great, but we are not too picky at this point. Please call Janet Moulding at 587-1016 if you know of a car needing a new and important home.

Christine Nolan, President of the Friends of Forbes

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Are you part of a book club? Does your group have a hard time selecting your monthly picks? Here are a few tips and book suggestions.

Make sure the book you choose is readily available. Very frustrating if only part of your group gets a copy of the chosen book. (Unless you are buying the books current best-sellers are rarely an option). You can always ask a librarian for help.

A great book doesn't always provide material for a great discussion. If everyone loved the book sometimes that is all there is to say. Books no one liked are often more fun.

A little controversy usually will keep the conversation going.

Here are some book suggestions:

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

The Magus by John Fowles

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

The Vanishing of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

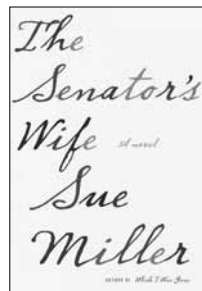
We Need to Talk about Kevin by Lionel Shriver

Senator's Wife by Sue Miller

Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Devil in The White City by Erik Larson

NEW
AFTERNOON
BOOK
DISCUSSION



Starting in April, the Forbes Library will be offering an afternoon book discussion. It will be held on the 3rd Friday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m. We will mostly read fiction but there will also be a sprinkling of non-fiction, young adult and classic titles. Pre-registration is not required. This group is open to all and the first discussion will be held on Friday, April 15th. We will be discussing *The Senator's Wife* by Sue Miller. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

WHAT DOES THE LIBRARY MEAN TO YOU?

We recently asked what the library means to you and here is a sampling of the responses we received:

"The Forbes is a wonderful state of mind where people share their excitement about new ideas, great writers, new experiences."

"Without the library I would be adrift."

"I can't live without it."

"It gives a strong sense of community in a way that no other location does. It is accessible to everyone."

"Those of us of relatively small means with voracious reading appetites are eternally grateful to public libraries. Give me library or give me death!"

"For those who can't afford a computer at home, the Forbes Library is a vital resource. The library matters to us all."

"I don't know what my life would be like without Forbes. It would not be as rich, for sure."

"It's a place of social gathering, my source for books, music, and DVDs. But it's also an anchor, a support, an entrée into a new town, and a crucial link to community."

My favorite place in all of Northampton — Forbes!"

Here's what kids said when asked in the Children's Room:

"My library is everything to me."

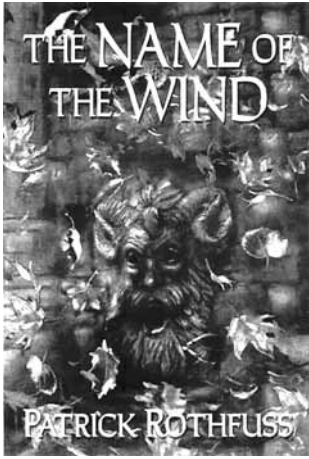
"If I didn't have a library, I wouldn't be able to become such a great reader. Thank you library."

"The library is a lot of fun. If there was no library, I would only know half the things I know."

from RENOVATIONS, page 1

The staff however will remain the same — dedicated to providing the children and families of Northampton and surrounding towns with the very best service, and committed to making your library experience one worth repeating over and over again!

Jude McGowan, Children's & Young Adult Services Librarian



SCIENCE FICTION and FANTASY BOOK GROUP

Join the library's newest book group! We meet the first Monday of each month in The Watson Room at 7 pm to discuss our book for the month. Anyone interested in Science Fiction or Fantasy is welcome. Although we focus on this month's selection, we will discuss any topics related to Science Fiction or Fantasy, books or movies!

The first discussion will take place on Monday, April 4th at 7 p.m. about the book, Name of the Wind by Pat Rothfuss. Copies of the book are available to borrow at the main desk. Upcoming titles will be announced soon. Discussions will be moderated by Paul Budney a retired Mathematics Professor and long time fan of anything related to Science Fiction or Fantasy books and movies.

FRESH PERSPECTIVES for COOKS

Forbes Library's large and diverse selection of food and cooking periodicals — like its comprehensive and ever-expanding cook-book collection — is intended to inform and delight a wide range of cooks, from those seeking some culinary adventures to those simply looking for something different and enticing to add to their store of everyday recipes.

Some of these publications are kitchen familiars and need no description here; these include Bon Appétit, Cooking Light, Cook's Illustrated and its down-home sister Country Cooking, Food & Wine, Taste of Home, and Vegetarian Times. But there are others you may be unacquainted with that are well worth checking out. Here are brief accounts of four of them.

EATING WELL

This magazine addresses the concerns of the many cooks who want some guidance from authorities like Marion Nestle regarding today's overload of nutritional information; an expanded awareness provided by writers like Bill McKibben on the sourcing and environmental impact of what we eat; and a good selection of tasty, carefully-worked-out, and easy-to-follow recipes coded for cooks with specific dietary needs (low-calorie, low-carb, low-fat, high-fiber).

FINE COOKING

If a first-class and very cosmopolitan cooking school were to be transformed into a magazine, it would look a lot like Fine Cooking. A wide variety of authorities are invited to share step-by-step directions for dishes out of their personal repertoire; unfamiliar ingredients are explained and put to use; and top-of-the-line cooking equipment is tested and rated. Cooks

who find Cook's Illustrated a tad conventional will find Fine Cooking livelier and more adventurous.

SAVEUR

Perhaps the most handsomely designed culinary magazine in our collection, Saveur explores the authentic cuisines of the world through articles that track recipes and ingredients to their places of origin, illuminate their history, traditions, and particular flavors. The photographs accompanying these articles are of an unusual depth and richness and are vital to this magazine's appeal.

WINE ENTHUSIAST

This publication is directed not so much to wine connoisseurs as to those who want to learn more about wine and to find good, affordable bottles that widen their knowledge of the many different varieties and enhance their pleasure in drinking them. Every issue contains tasting notes, tips on matching food with appropriate wines, and a buying guide that focuses on a particular varietal (Merlot, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, etc.), plus ratings of new releases of all sorts.

Naturally, the library offers several other periodicals that devote a substantial amount of ink to food and cooking, among them Martha Stewart Living, Natural Health, Real Simple, and Whole Living, along with the parenting magazines down in the Children's Department, which often feature articles on cooking for — and with — children.

We welcome any suggestions you might want to toss into the pot to provide additional spice and savor.

ply for federal grants available from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in Boston”, says Moulding.

Soliciting community input on the library’s programs and services is the first step in the planning process. To that end, the library is conducting an anonymous survey of user needs and interests. The survey asks the community what aspects of the library are most important, and seeks opinions on future directions. The committee hopes for a strong community response to the survey, which is now available to take.

The survey is posted on the library’s website (www.forbeslibrary.org) for people to fill out at home or on a library computer in the Reference Room. Paper copies can be found at the library’s circulation desk and at the Northampton Senior Center and Lilly Library. Everyone who completes the survey online will be entered into a drawing for a Nook e-reader with Wi-Fi, and the winner will be announced on May 1, 2011.

The planning committee is in the process of gathering additional information about community needs from local agencies, organizations, and citizens. Interviews and focus groups are in the works. Public participation in this initial phase of the planning process is essential to the construction of a valid

strategic plan, and the committee is open to innovative ideas. They expect to have the plan completed and approved by early October.

Members of the committee include Forbes Trustees Bonnie Burnham and Marjorie Hess, Friends of Forbes members Kari Knapp and Serena Smith, and library staff Lisa Downing, Paula Elliott, Ben Kalish, Faith Kaufmann, Jude McGowan, Molly Moss, Janet Moulding, Sasha Nyary, and Brian Tabor. For further information on the long-range planning process, visit the library’s website www.forbeslibrary.org or call (413) 587-1011.

About Forbes Library

The Forbes Library serves as the public library for the city of Northampton and as such is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all residents. Founded in 1894 as a gift from Judge Charles Edward Forbes, it is also the repository for many of the papers and artifacts of Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president of the United States, and important historical archives for the 350-year-old city and Hampshire County. Forbes Library serves as a major cultural center by offering sources of current information, resources for learning and recreation, computer use, programs serving a wide variety of interests, and frequent collaborations with schools and public service institutions.

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Janet Moulding, Library Director

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