

Footnotes

Friends of the Newburyport Public Library



www.newburyportpl.org

February 2012, Volume 22, Number 1

At NPL, February Is “Love Your Library” Month (*sigh*)

The Newburyport Public Library is joining other libraries in the MVLC, around the state, and throughout the nation to celebrate its patrons’ love for their library. The Friends of the Library has cooked up a number of ways to mark this special lovefest. For example, be sure to drop by and check out how many of your fellow patrons have answered the question, Why do you love your library? (They will be posted in the lobby.) In particular, make it a point to visit on February 14, that other romance-besotted day (the one that gets all the press and sale events) to see what special surprises we have for you. Just be careful—Cupid is a reader, too, and his invisible arrows are sure to be flying off the shelves....



What’s New? Look inside for ...

NPL News:	PAGE
NPL Head Librarian Appointed to MVLC Executive Committee	2
Upcoming Events for Adults	2, 4
Newburyport Literary Festival Turns 7	2
Teen Loft News	4
NPL Patrons Quick to Adopt Self-Check	6
Kids’ Used Book Sale and Magic Show	5
Great Old Book Sale (Spring Edition)	5
Where Did All Those Books Go?	5
Brain Teaser	2
Area Authors: Joel Brown	3
Membership Form	7

Dear Friends,

I hope you all took advantage of the recent opportunity to stock up on winter reading at the Great Old Book Sale in November. Once again we received donations of thousands of fine books, CDs, and DVDs covering all topics. Hardcover novels—principally mysteries and thrillers—accounted for the overwhelming majority of material sold.

Speaking of *overwhelming*... for only the second time in the 24-sale history of Great Old Book Sale, we had to call a halt to donations earlier than planned. Within a day and a half from the opening of the library doors to accept contributions, we were swamped with boxes of books to be sorted and shelved. They were stacked very high and wide, and by Sunday afternoon it was apparent that if we continued to collect books, we would be left with no space for volunteers to move through as they sorted, much less for shoppers to squeeze in to buy.

If you were among the people who came by to drop off your books but were turned away, I apologize. From sale to sale, it is impossible to predict how much volume in donations we will receive or when they will arrive during the collection period. Of course, this is really a wonderful “problem” to have: too many generous donors, wanting to give away too much of their valuable material, and all for a good cause!

As any reader of “Footnotes” will be aware, all the funds raised by the Friends are devoted exclusively to furthering the mission and purposes of the NPL, and the \$9,448.57 brought in at the last book sale is no exception. For example, at last month’s regular meeting, the board of the Friends of the Library voted to utilize \$30,000 from its Endowment Fund to help the

(continued on page 7)

Brain Teaser

by Al Lavender

Since so many people seem to like Cryptograms, here you go...

1. Dz dfmpf pfak mj cxt hcnk qzb dfmpfhcnk.
— Skbdcuk Bfdnfoo
2. Qd fenbcx feci zqnu gokak bu cq kcj.
— Kwwlkubeugku
3. Mr m lqt q hcwpbqojcjo, m iwjyt pqvn lmv
lwcqan wc vwccmo.
— Olny Omyfncobnmp
4. Gn znp viekw rz rekg eu rcvpyekf acvl ny
ynvvekf lcyaz?
— Nfglk Kcui
5. Lhcbwmfis fl tbrzibk bqbzv wfcbr yhhp fl
hgbibk.
— Rcbzfuli Gzhqbzy
6. R hipk bi blu hxou xoq'b quduoorpa – xb'o blu
obeyxk iquo blrb quuk rksxdu.
— Fxjj Diofa

Entries are limited to one per member and must be sent to Al Lavender, 10 Rawson Hill Road, Newburyport, MA 01950 (or e-mail: allavender@comcast.net). Deadline for receipt of entries is February 29, 2012.

Contest Results

The September Brain Teaser asked you to make as many words as possible out of the letters in

ANNUAL MEETING

Congratulations to Mary Gage, whose entry listing 449 words wins!

Tell Us How We Can Help

The library always appreciates your feedback and suggestions! A Suggestion Box is located next to the bust of Ed Molin to the left of the main circulation desk.



NPL Head Librarian Appointed to MVLC Executive Committee

Newburyport Public Library Head Librarian Cynthia Diminture has been appointed to the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium Executive Committee as an at-large member representing medium-sized libraries. She will also serve on the consortium's Strategic Planning Committee, which will work to finalize an action plan for FY 2013. Ms. Diminture looks forward to participating in policy setting and governance for the 35-member automated library network.



Mark Your Calendars!

Ken Gloss, proprietor of Boston's Brattle Book Shop, will offer a presentation at the Newburyport Public Library on April 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Ken is widely known for his fascinating stories about books and bookselling, some of which he will share during his talk. He will also be available for informal appraisals.



Newburyport Literary Festival Turns 7



You won't want to miss any of the seventh annual Newburyport Literary Festival, "The Lyrical Voice," which honors prize-winning Powow River poet and lyricist Alfred Nicol. Be sure to

save April 27 and 28 for this exciting event.

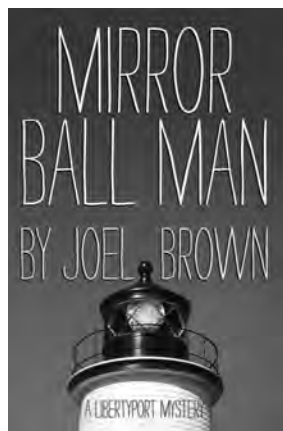
This year's roster of authors who will read and take part in panels is still being finalized, but among the many luminaries attending are newcomers to the NLF, such as poets Gail Mazur and Robert Pinsky and novelists Edith Pearlman and Tom Perrotta. Writers of books for children and young adults will be well-represented by the likes of Jeff Kinney (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series).

The festival kicks off on Friday evening, April 27, with Dinner with the Authors featuring well-known,

(continued on page 6)

Area Authors: Joel Brown

In 2010, Joel Brown released *Mirror Ball Man*, the first in a series of self-published mysteries set in “Libertyport.” Since the early 1980s, Joel’s “day job” as a journalist has sent him on assignments that have ranged from covering political scandals, murders, and the behind-the-scenes scoop about local news anchors to rock concerts and Hollywood films. In more recent years, he has commented on Greater Boston’s arts and culture scene for the *Boston Globe* and his blog at *HubArts*. Last month, Erica



Holthausen sat down with the author to talk about how these experiences, and life in Newburyport, have influenced his writing of *Mirror Ball Man* as well as *Mermaid Blues*, just published in September.

Erica Holthausen: In both *Mirror Ball Man* and *Mermaid Blues*, the town of Libertyport (a fictionalized Newburyport) is more than just a location. Why did you choose to set your stories here?

Joel Brown: Newburyport is the best example of New England demographics and stories that have been repeated in Portland and Kennebunk and Portsmouth and Gloucester and a thousand other places. The working seaport that becomes a yuppie paradise has become a pretty common story in New England over the last 30 or 40 years. I grew up in Exeter, so I sort of watched this all happen in Portsmouth, and there are three stages: There’s the downtrodden place that the townies all love. Then there’s this kind of cool period where it’s in flux and has a really odd mix of people. Then it goes upscale. And that’s a story that I don’t think has been told much in print. That was certainly one of the reasons that it was great to put Baxter [McLean, the singer-songwriter protagonist of both novels] here. For murder mysteries you need conflict, and the conflicts between those groups are

Erica Holthausen, a freelance writer and storyteller, is principal of Joppa Communications, where she empowers passionate idealists to connect with their audience through honest marketing.

so natural and common, and I see them every day. Anybody who says everything is all ducky here now is not paying attention.

EH: Having had one hit song in the 1980s, Baxter McLean is a minor celebrity in town. As a journalist, you have profiled and interviewed a number of artists, musicians, and actors. How did those experiences shape your main character?

JB: I’ve spent a lot of time around artists and there’s the artist who lives on your block, who’s just another normal person who makes whatever or paints whatever. And then there’s Madonna, who you don’t ever really get to know in any real way—who’s this other planet. But in between there’s a whole world of artists who are just well-known enough for it to screw up their lives. I saw a lot of that and dealt with a lot of those people over the years. Where worlds collide is always a good place for a writer to be and I’ve seen a lot of little worlds colliding.

EH: Have you got an example you could give?

JB: The first one goes back to the 1980s, and I’m sure I wrote it in a notebook at the time. On Bonnie Raitt’s album there’s this great song called “Too Long at the Fair,” and it was one of my favorite albums and I always loved that song. And when I was first at the paper at Greenfield, Joel Zoss, the guy who wrote that song, was coming to play at a bar. So I went to interview him, and I’m all psyched about this because he wrote this great song, and then he casually mentioned that he was taking the day off from his teaching job—his elementary school teaching job—so he could come up early. And I said, “Let me get this straight, you wrote the best song on the Bonnie Raitt album, and you teach second grade!” That just struck me, and from then on I think I became attuned to those kinds of things.

EH: Your journalism career clearly provided some great inspiration for the creation of Baxter, but what about the crime scenes?

(continued on page 6)



Adult Programs

WEDNESDAYS @ NPL

Wii for Adults

10 am — Program Room

Come and give Wii a try! Have fun playing various sports, dancing, and competition-style games on our big screen! All skill levels are welcome, including beginners!

Movie Matinees

2:30 pm — Program Room

Join us for our Movie Matinees on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30. Come and enjoy the theatrelike screen and sound system with fellow film buffs. Free admission, and all are welcome!

Ebookapalooza

Monday, February 6 at 6:30 pm — Program Room

Do you have a new eReader? Are you eager to get started downloading free library eBooks? This is the program for you! Find out how to get eBooks from Overdrive, the library's digital collection. You will learn how to install and authorize the software needed, browse the eBook collection, select and download an eBook, and access Overdrive Help. [Not free on this date? Never fear, the program will be repeated.]

Travel to China

Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 pm — Program Room

Professional photographer Richard Ferland will share his experiences living in and traveling in China. Get tips to plan your own visit, learn a bit about Chinese culture and language, and view some of Richard's favorite photographs from his China travels.

WWII Tuskegee Airmen

Monday, February 27 at 3:00 pm — Program Room

Staff Sergeant James Sheppard, one of a small group of African Americans selected to be part of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, will share the story of the Tuskegee Airmen and his experiences while on active duty in Alabama, North Africa, and Italy during the war.



For more information about programs at the NPL, check out the Event Calendar on our website

WWW.NEWBURYPORTPL.ORG/EVENTS/

Book Club @ NPL



Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 pm — Program Room

Please join the Book Club @ NPL as we discuss Leo Tolstoy's classic novel, *Anna Karenina*. No need to register, all are welcome. Light refreshments.

The Book Club @ NPL meets in the Program Room every other month on the third Thursday.

Film Club @ NPL

Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 pm — Program Room

The Film Club @ NPL will show the documentary film *Steep*, followed by a discussion. This film follows the exhilarating sport of big-mountain skiing and the stories of those who live and breathe the experience. Come for the film at 6:00 pm, the discussion at 7:45, or join us for both. It's *free*—and all are welcome, so bring a friend!

The Film Club @ NPL meets on the third Thursday of every other month.



Teen Loft News

This winter, teens in grades 7 through 12 are invited to come in from the cold and attend our Teen Loft programs. We are offering crafts, food, movies, and more. For details, please check the online NPL Events Calendar—www.newburyportpl.org/events—or the Facebook page for the Newburyport Public Library Teen Loft.

Kids' Book Sale and Magic Show

Saturday
February 18

Snowdate: Saturday, February 25

Program Room at the Newburyport Public Library

Debbie O'Carroll's Magic Show

1:30–2:00 pm

Kids' Used Book Sale

2:00–3:00 pm

No books will be collected for this sale.

Proceeds to benefit the Newburyport Public Library Children's Room



Speaking of Book Sales...

Great Old Book Sale (Spring 2012 edition)

As always, we need and are extremely grateful to the volunteers who help sort, set up, and take down the sale as well as work during sale hours to help our customers. Here are the dates for your calendar:

Saturday, *March 24, 9:00 am* — Collection and sorting of donated books, CDs, and DVDs begin; new-volunteer orientation at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm

Sunday, *March 25, 9:00 am*–*Wednesday, March 28, 12:00 noon* — donations accepted

Wednesday, *March 28, 6:30–8:30 pm* — Friends of the Library members-only sale

Thursday, *March 29, 9:00 am until library closes*; and Friday, *March 30, 9:00 am–6:30 pm* — GOBS open to everyone

Saturday, *March 31, 9:00 am–3:00 pm* — last day of 25th GOBS and prices are reduced even more! Then what happens? See the article opposite....

Where Did All Those Books Go?

At 3:00 on a Saturday afternoon, as a Great Old Book Sale slowly sinks into the sunset, we frequently are asked, *What will you do with all those books?* Especially at the GOBS last November, when the outpouring of generosity yielded an unprecedented quantity, it's an intriguing question with a fascinating answer.

As 3:00 rolls around on Saturday afternoon, so does a large truck from Reading Tree, a nonprofit group dedicated to seeing that people who cannot afford to buy books do not go without good reading material. Since its founding in 2007, Reading Tree has distributed 4.7 million books, with close to 1 million given out in 2011 alone!

Reading Tree's mission is "to provide books to disadvantaged families in the markets we serve. We accept all types of books and support literacy with our sustainable model of reuse, recycling and fundraising. Reading Tree is committed to keep millions of usable books out of our nation's landfills."

For more information on its work, visit Reading Tree's website: WWW.READINGTREE.ORG/INDEX.PHP

NPL Patrons Quick to Adopt New Self-Check System

Since November 7, when the Newburyport Public Library unveiled its two self-check stations, these easy-to-use machines—one located at the main circulation desk and the other at the Children’s Room desk—have provided an alternative for patrons who enjoy the convenience and privacy this type of transaction offers.

Mayor Donna Holaday was on hand on self-check “launch day,” which was facilitated by a sales representative from 3M, who assisted patrons and passed out promotional items. From that day until November 30—less than a full month—1,310 patrons made use of the new method to check out 3,617 items.

Use of the self-check machines is strictly optional. As always, librarians continue to be available and are happy to check out materials for patrons and provide other types of assistance.

The library is grateful to both the NAID (Newburyport Area Industrial Development) Foundation and the Friends of the Library for their generosity in providing the funding needed to make self-check available.



Reminder

You can read this issue of “Footnotes” online at the library’s website:

1. Go to WWW.NEWBURYPORTPL.ORG and
2. Click on the GET INVOLVED tab;
3. Select FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY. A link to the latest edition of “Footnotes” is near the bottom of the page under NEWSLETTER.

Area Authors: Joel Brown *(continued)*

JB: I was a hard-news reporter for ten years before I [focused more exclusively on] reviewing records and movies, and I saw a lot of dead people and crime scenes. It just really ain’t CSI out there. Procedures are not always followed, people do what they want, they follow half of the procedure and not the other half, people react in completely surprising and contradictory ways.



EH: Given that both of your books take place in Newburyport, were you ever concerned about how they would be received here in town?

JB: I’m always worried somebody’s going to think I’m kicking the crap out of Newburyport for some reason, and it’s not that at all. I hope it’s just an honest portrait. But when Jean Foley Doyle said she liked it a lot and had me sign her copy, that made me relax a little bit. The writer has to sort of not give a crap, especially while you’re writing—and that’s something that I’m pretty good at. After all those years working for newspapers, you get a pretty thick skin.

Photo: Joel Brown and Buffy at Salisbury Beach

Both Mirror Ball Man and Mermaid Blues are available at the Newburyport Public Library.

Newburyport Literary Festival *(continued)*

Boston-based radio announcer Ron Della Chiesa, who will be joined by top-flight writers on music—from journalists to singer/songwriters—for a panel discussing the interplay of words and music.

Go to WWW.NEWBURYPORTLITERARYFESTIVAL.ORG/ to keep up with new developments.

Still Friends?

Annual membership in the Friends of the Library expires each year on June 30. Once July 1st rolls around, it's time to renew your membership. Don't recall when you renewed? Figuring it out is simple. Just look at the date printed on the address label on the front of this issue of "Footnotes." If it is earlier than 2012, it's time to renew. Use the handy form next to this note, or pick up a membership-renewal form at the circulation desk in the library. And, as always, *thank you so much for your continued support of the Friends of the Library!*

Dear Friends *(continued from page 1)*

library make a number of renovations. You will begin to see this money "at work" very soon. (Not only do these funds supplement our already pledged annual support of approximately \$60,000 for this year, they are in addition to a generous \$20,000 grant from the Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation.)

The library is making these major investments in infrastructure to help it serve patrons more efficiently. But the library was "just" expanded and renewed, you may be thinking. Hard as it may be to believe, more than 10 years have passed since then, and during that entire time the library has continued to grow and improve in order to accommodate the needs of the community, which predictably have changed with the times.

Not only has patronage increased greatly over the last 10 years, galloping strides in information technology have completely changed some ways the library is used. Soon, a number of the computers reserved for public use will be moved in order to permit staff members to offer assistance to library users more easily.

The two new self-check stations (see page 1) provide another example. Perhaps you've already used this new service made possible through funding from both the Newburyport Area Industrial Development (NAID) Foundation and the Friends.

See you at the Library!

Amantha Moore
President, Friends of the Library

Friends of the Newburyport Public Library

Membership Form

Good through June 30, 2012

I wish to:

- join the Friends of the Library
 renew my membership

in the following category:

- Individual \$7.00
 Senior or Student \$5.00
 Family \$15.00
 Contributor \$25.00
 Patron \$50.00

In addition, I wish to make a donation to:

- The Archival Center \$ _____
 The Endowment Fund \$ _____
 The General Fund \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to
Friends of the Library
for memberships and donations to special funds.

Drop off this form with your check at the NPL
Circulation Desk—or mail them to:

Friends of the Library
Newburyport Public Library
94 State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Thank You

Executive Board

Amantha Moore, *President*
Judy Avery, *Vice President*
Fran Burke, *Recording Secretary*
Carole Dowling, *Treasurer*
Debbie Aldrich, *Assistant Treasurer*
Margaret Nichols, *Hospitality*
Carolyn Reed, *Corresponding Secretary*
Debbie Knight, *Membership*
Brian Hotchkiss, *Publications*
At Large: Dawn Bennett, Liz Fiascone,
Al Lavender, Betty Lavender, Dixie Smetana,
Marilyn Stone

The Friends of the Newburyport Public Library is a nonprofit organization under IRS Section 501(c)3. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



“Footnotes” is printed in Salisbury, Massachusetts, by Coastal Printing.

Friends of the Newburyport Public Library
94 State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Newburyport, MA
Permit No. 383



February 2012

Winter Hours

Main Library

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am–9:00 pm
Friday and Saturday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Sunday, 1:00–5:00 pm

Newburyport Archival Center

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–12:00 pm, and
1:00–4:00 pm
Saturday, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Call ahead for availability on Wednesday
from 5:00–8:00 pm

Newburyport Public Library

94 State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

(978) 465-4428 (tel.)

[HTTP://WWW.NEWBURYPORTPL.ORG](http://www.newburyportpl.org)

Kids' Book Sale & Magic Show!

(see page 5)

