

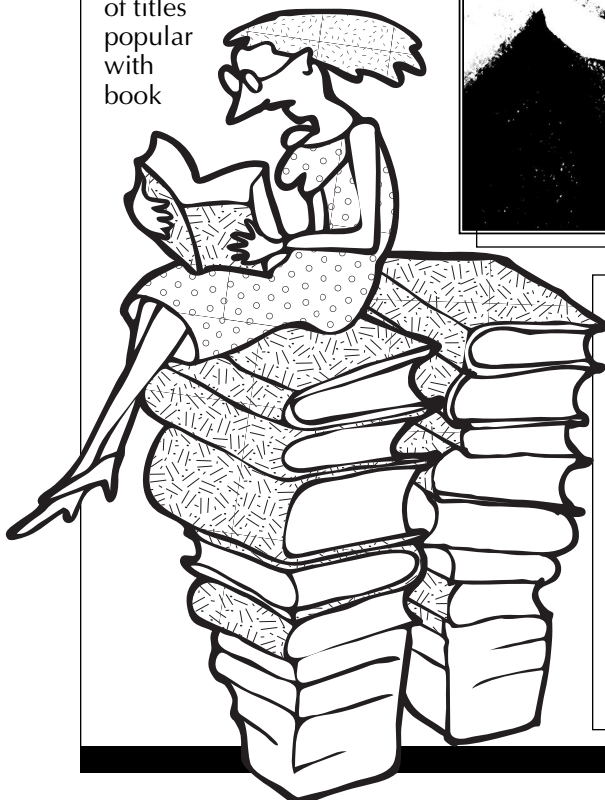
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

SPRING 2010

WHO DOES WHAT: SHE BUYS BOOKS FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

How does a librarian buy books to satisfy an entire community? It helps "not to stereotype anything," says Fran Pierce, who has served for nearly 40 years as the Worcester Public Library's Fiction Specialist.

Partial to mysteries and science fiction, Fran says the hardest part of her job is anticipating what other people will like and choosing from the hundreds of new novels published each year. To make her selections, she peruses published book reviews and recommended book club titles. "I try to buy the books that people read, not just the world classics," she says. In addition to making sure there are always multiple copies of titles popular with book

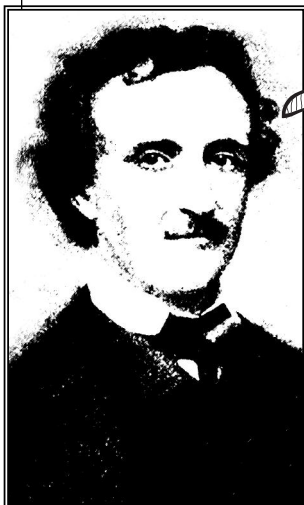


discussion groups, Fran stocks shelves with the latest thrillers and novels with edgy themes, called urban fiction.

"(Former Head Librarian) Penny Johnson once told me that I should feel uncomfortable with about a

THE BIG READ: THE COMPLETE WORKS OF EDGAR ALLAN POE

Third annual, city-wide reading program will feature events throughout April, including presentations by private investigator Robert Drummond on real world CSI. For events, see: www.neabigread.org/communities/?community_id=1098 and visit the library and the library website starting in early March.



third of the collection," Fran says. Hired as a Reference Librarian in 1970 after earning a Master's Degree in Library Science from Simmons College, Fran purchases all of the literature and large-print books for the main library. She keeps 12 shelves constantly full of the latest releases. Books remain on the "new fiction" shelves on the library's first floor for about six months. Then they are integrated into the regular fiction collection. To make room for the new additions, unpopular, worn, and duplicate books are removed and sold in the Friends' book sales.

As the library's fiction expert, Fran is responsible for knowing what's in the books she buys. So, when not shopping for new releases, she is likely to be engaged in her favorite activity: reading. She estimates that she reads about 200 books a year, bringing the total to approximately 8,000 volumes read so far during her career at the Worcester Public Library. "As long as I stick with my books I'm happy," she says.

ANSWERS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

No matter where you are, you can use your cell phone, smart phone, or computer to call, email, instant message, or text a question to a librarian. Contact a librarian in the following ways whenever the library is open:

By phone: Dial 508-799-1655. Press 3.

By email: Complete an email form to submit your reference question. Go to www.worcpublib.org. Click on "Ask a Librarian" and on "Email Us."

By text: Text: 309-222-7740

Step 1: Enter WPL

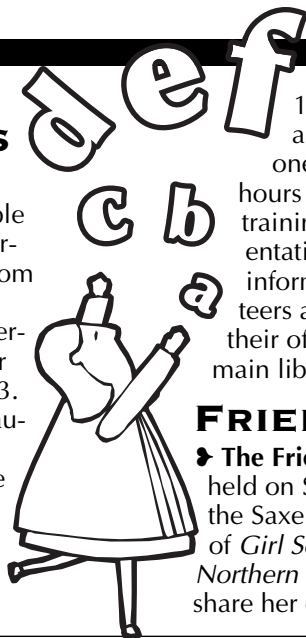
Step 2: TXT your question (Service is free, but standard text messaging rates apply.)

By instant message: Chat online with a librarian, Monday-Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Go to the library website and click on "Ask a Librarian" and on "Chat with a Librarian."

In person: For the ultimate live chat, stop by our reference desks at the library!

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Approximately 200 people from 58 countries are currently learning English from Literacy Volunteers, an organization that has operated out of the Worcester Public Library since 1973. According to Director Laurie D'Amico, there are 250 people waiting to be assigned a tutor, reflecting an urgent need for volunteers. The role requires completing an



18-hour training program, and committing to working one-on-one with a student two hours a week for a year. The next training class begins with an orientation on April 14. For more information, call Literacy Volunteers at 508-754-8056, or visit their office in Room 332 in the main library.

FRIENDLY NOTES

✦ **The Friends Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m. in the Saxe Room. Grace Akallo, author of *Girl Soldier: A Story of Hope for Northern Uganda's Children*, will share her experiences.

✦ **April is membership month.** Please use the coupon on page 3 to join the Friends or renew your membership.

✦ **Home pick-up service** for book sale donations starts April 1 for people unable to deliver books to the library. Sorry, no magazines, encyclopedias, or textbooks. Call Paul Reynolds at 508-799-1686 for details.

✦ **Welcome** Jabian Gutierrez and Dante Comparetto, new members of the Worcester Public Library Board of Directors.

✦ **Follow the library** on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, and YouTube. Get linked through the library website: www.worcpublib.org.

SPRING 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All programs are free!

MAIN LIBRARY

Death in Shorts

Wednesday, April 7, 7 p.m.

How to write the short mystery story, featuring crime writers Kate Flora, Ruth M. McCarty, and Susan Oleksiw.

Masked Ball – Big Read Kick-Off

Friday, April 9, 7 to 10 p.m.

Dancing for all ages. Refreshments. Dress your best! Tux and gowns optional. Bring your own mask – or use one of the library's. Free tickets (required) available at the library after March 26.

Friends of the Worcester Public Library Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 18, 2 p.m.

Program features Grace Akallo, author of *Girl Soldier: A Story of Hope for Northern Uganda's Children*. Refreshments. Saxe Room

The Spectacular Spring Book Sale

Friday, May 14, Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members-only preview: Thursday, May 13, 3 to 5 p.m.

Memberships accepted at the Preview. Saxe Room

Friends Film Festival

Saturdays, 2 p.m. Saxe Room

– The Doctor is In –

March 6: *Doc Hollywood*

Young surgeon (Michael J. Fox) drives cross-country to a new life in California, 1991. (PG-13)

March 13: *M*A*S*H**

Korean War surgeons adopt a hilarious lifestyle while serving in a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, 1970. (R)

March 20: *Baby Boom*

Busy executive/mom (Diane Keaton) moves to Vermont and falls for low-key vet (Sam Shepard), 1987. (PG)

March 27: *The Doctor*

Arrogant surgeon (William Hurt) gets the patient's perspective when he becomes ill, 1990. (PG-13)

– The Big Read's Mystery Movies – (homage to Edgar Allan Poe)

April 3: *Rear Window*

Professional photographer (James Stewart) suspects his neighbor of murder. Also stars Grace Kelly, 1954. (PG)

April 10: *L.A. Confidential*

Three LAPD detectives try to find the truth behind a group murder, 1997. (R)

April 17: No Film Shown

April 24: *Gaslight*

Heiress Ingrid Bergman thinks her new husband is trying to drive her insane, 1944. (NR)

– Into Africa –

May 1: *Endgame*

Afrikaners and the ANC achieve political breakthrough in 1985 South Africa, 2009. (PG-13)

May 8: *Out of Africa*

Danish plantation owner (Meryl Streep) falls in love with a mysterious hunter (Robert Redford), 1985. (PG)

May 15: *Hotel Rwanda*

5-star hotel manager bravely takes a stand against savagery, 2005. (PG-13)

May 22: *Blood Diamond*

During 1999 Sierra Leone civil war, a smuggler and fisherman join forces to recover a rare diamond and rescue the fisherman's son, 2006. (R)

May 29: *Mogambo*

Safari guide (Clark Gable) juggles two much younger women (Ava Gardner and Grace Kelly), 1953. (NR)

Children's Activities

☞ Programs require registration; sign up in Children's Room.

Babytime

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

Up to 16 months with adult; lap-sit rhymes and more.

Lil' Todkins

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Drop-in for toddlers 17-30 months with adult. Stories, rhymes, and fun.

Drop-in Storytime

Fridays, March 5, 12, 19, 10:30 a.m.

Thirty minutes of stories, songs, and activities. All ages. Groups welcome.

☞ Mother Goose on the Loose en Espanol

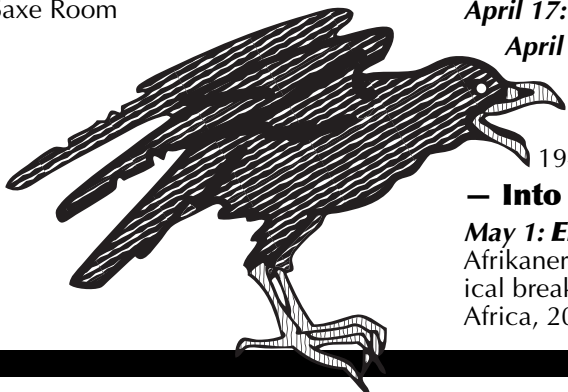
Saturdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 10 a.m.

Six-week program in Spanish. Ages 24-36 months with adult.

Mysterious Masques

Thursday, April 8, 3 to 5 p.m.

Make your own red and black Poe-like mask; all materials provided.



Creepy, Crawly Critters
Wednesday, April 21, 2, 4, or 6 p.m.
Get up close to insects to celebrate Edgar Allan Poe's story, The Gold Bug.

Write Like Poe
Friday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Try your hand at writing with a quill and ink; wear old clothes!

El Dia de los Ninos, el Dia de los Libros
Saturday, April 24, 3 p.m.
Latino celebration with Ritmos Academy's new dance production.

Young Adults

Teen Writers
Thursdays, March 4, 18, April 1, 15, 29, May 13, 27, 3:30 p.m.
Share your love of creative writing.

Anime Wings
Fridays, March 5, 19, April 2, 16, 30, May 14, 28, 3-5 p.m.
Club for teens, 12-17. Watch and discuss Japanese anime and more. Saxe Room.

Teen Advisory Group (TAG)
Tuesdays, March 9, May 11, 3:30-5 p.m.

Teens 13-17 welcome! Bring program ideas for teens. Refreshments. Green Room.

Manga for Teens
Fridays, March 12, 26, April 9, 23, May 7, 21, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Draw Japanese-style comics with graphic artist Andy Fish. Teens 13-17.

Evening with Edgar Allan Poe
Tuesday, April 13, 4 p.m.
Short story contest and Poe reading for teens. Banx Room.

Teen Poetry Slam
Thursday, April 15, 4 p.m.
Banx Room.

Grants Resource Center

Orientation
Free sessions on finding funding opportunities for non-profits. Call 508-799-1655, option 3, for dates and registration information.

Genealogy Programs

Registration required; call Joy Hennig at 508-799-1670. Check the library's online Calendar of Events for event updates.

Finding Your Irish Ancestors
Tuesday, March 9, 7 p.m.
How to unearth your Emerald Isle roots.

Genealogy Days
Friday, April 16 - Saturday, April 17, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
A two-day family research marathon.

Great Books Discussion Group

Participants must read book first. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Banx Room.

March 3: **The Vicar of Wakefield**, by Oliver Goldsmith

April 7: **The Age of Innocence**, by Edith Wharton

May 5: **Siddhartha**, by Herman Hesse

Public Meetings

Worcester Public Library Board of Directors

Tuesdays, March 9, April 13, May 11, 5 p.m.
Green Room

Friends of Worcester Public Library Board
Tuesdays, March 16, April 20, May 18, 4 p.m. Green Room

FRANCES PERKINS BRANCH

Adult Programs

Brown Bag Mystery Discussion Group
Thursdays, March 4, April 1, May 6, 12:15 p.m.

Enjoy mysteries and conversation with lunch. Dessert/coffee provided. New members welcome!

Health & Wellness at Your Library

Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Free fitness workshops by the Greendale Family Branch YMCA.
March 4: Design your Own Workout Program
March 11: How to Work Out at Home

March 25: Postural Awareness and Back Strengthening

April 1: Introduction to Pilates (Free) Fourth Friday Films

March 26, April 23, May 28, 7 p.m.

Ongoing series of independent and foreign films with English subtitles. Meeting Room. For film titles and descriptions, see [Calendar of Events](#) at www.worcpublic.org.

Youth Activities

Young Adult Council (YAC)
Thursdays, March 18, April 15, May 20, 5 p.m.
Pizza, contests, and program planning for teens grades 7-12! Drop-in.

Family Storytime
Thursday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

Drop-in fun for little ones and their adults, presented by the YAC members.

Poetry Read-Out!

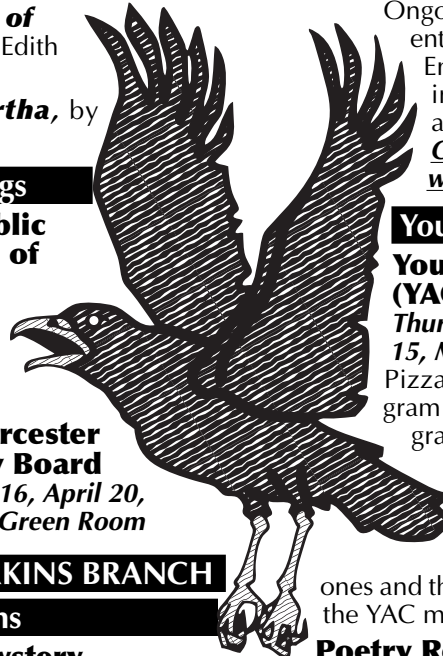
Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Celebrate National Poetry Month; drop-in poetry reading. Refreshments.

Meet the Birds

Thursday, May 13, 4 p.m.
Mass. Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center presents a live bird show for families. Free tickets required; available at the Youth Services Desk starting April 5.

GREAT BROOK VALLEY BRANCH

The renovated GBV Branch is open! Stop by to read, use the computers, or participate in after-school activities.



Support your library - be a Friend!

Name: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

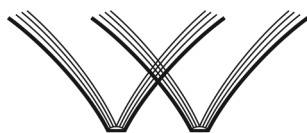
- Sustaining \$15
- Supporting \$25
- Patron \$50
- Benefactor \$100 and up
- Other _____

- My company's matching gift form is enclosed.

Friends of Worcester Public Library does not share member information.

Our membership year runs April 1 to March 31. Contributions are tax deductible. If paying by check, please make payable to Friends of Worcester Public Library. Send to: Friends of Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608-2074.

FRIENDS OF



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SPECIAL EXHIBITS

March: **St. Peter-Marian High School annual student art exhibit**

April: **John Lenis, Photography**

May: **Worcester Public Schools student art exhibit**

FRIEND-LY BOOK LIST

Lives in literature — new biographies about writers:

✦ ***Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women***, by Harriet Reisen, 2009. A lively account of the author's rags-to-riches tale.

✦ ***Animal Magnetism: My Life with Creatures Great and Small***, by Rita Mae Brown, 2009. Hilarious account of animals dear to the Sister Jane author.

✦ ***W.E.B. Du Bois***, by David Levering Lewis, 2009. Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of this monumental civil rights figure.

✦ ***Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story***, by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor, 2009. Heart-warming mother-daughter tale.

✦ ***Tillie Olsen: One Woman, Many Riddles***, by Panthea Reid, 2010. One of the 20th century's most charismatic, revolutionary writers.

✦ ***Love as Always, Kurt: Vonnegut as I Knew Him***, by Loree Rackstraw, 2009. An intimate portrait of the novelist.

LIBRARY HOURS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Main Library
3 Salem Square
Phone: 508-799-1655
Tuesday and Wednesday,
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Monday.

Great Brook Valley Branch
89 Tacoma Street
Phone: 508-799-1729
Monday through Friday,
2 to 5 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday

**Frances Perkins Branch at
Greendale**
470 West Boylston Street
Phone: 508-799-1687
Monday and Thursday,
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 1 to 5:30 p.m.
Friday, 1 to 9 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Worcester Public Library
Website: www.worcpublic.org
Explore library's website for

important library information and easy referencing. To browse list of special donated books for sale by the Friends, click on FWPL link, scroll to abebooks.com, click, choose Bookstores and enter Friends of Worcester Library.

The Library Bookstore
Phone: 508-799-1686 (for store and Friends of the Worcester Public Library)

Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Monday.

LIBRARY HOLIDAYS

The main library and branches will be closed:

Easter – Sunday, April 4
Patriot's Day – Monday, April 19
Memorial Day –
Monday, May 31