

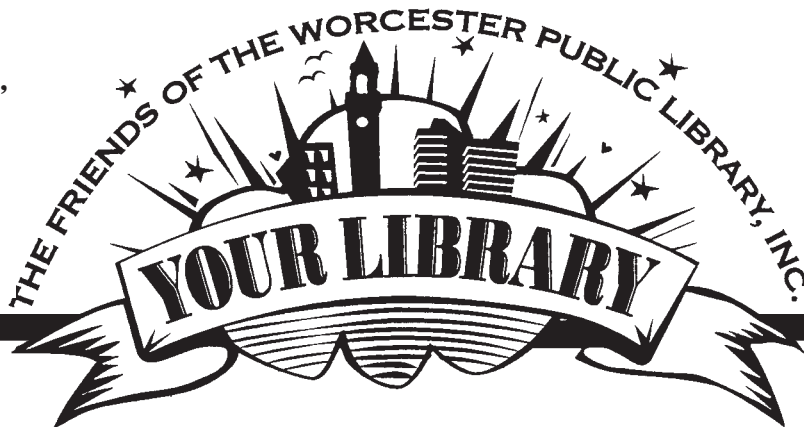
DON'T FORGET:

**FRIENDS BOOK SALE,
APRIL 2-3**

**ANNUAL MEETING,
APRIL 7**

INSIDE:

**YOUNG ADULT AREA
FOR TEENS, PAGE 2**



SPRING 2004

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Our mission as Friends of the Library is to support a strong Worcester public library system through volunteer services, advocacy, and fundraising. During the past year, budget cutbacks have impacted library hours and services. But thanks to the generosity of Friends members, we are able to sponsor programs and cultural activities that help make our library a vital community asset.

Financial support through Friends-membership contributions and purchases at the Books 'n' More Store goes a long way to help fund programs and events that are not in the library budget. The Friends continue our commitment to sponsor most of the library's programs for children. We are also pleased to sponsor the weekly Friends Film Series, as well as several concerts and lectures at the library. During the spring, there is an exciting variety of events at the main library and the two branches. Take a moment to read about them in this issue.

When you are doing your spring cleaning, please remember to recycle your used books at the library. Donated books can be either added to the library collection or sold at the Books 'n' More store to raise money to benefit the library. As always, thank you for being a Friend, and see you at the library.

Diana Cohen and
Veronica Griffin
Co-Presidents,
Friends of the Worcester
Public Library

FRIENDS REWARDED BY STORE SUCCESS

When the library's "new edition" opened in November 2001, the Friends of the Worcester Public Library celebrated the building's many new features, including the location of their Books 'n' More Store. It's just inside the library's main entrance from the parking lot, with display windows providing high visibility for its array of gift items as well as gently used books.

The Friends board member who took on the task of coordinating the all-volunteer operation through its opening and beyond was Marilyn Borst. She recruited helpers for staffing, ordering new stock, and organizing the myriad donations of books, cassettes, and videotapes for resale. The result has been a large source of income for the Friends, which helps support programs at the main library and its branches.

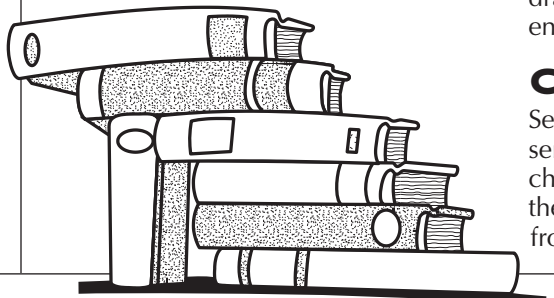
After Marilyn stepped down last year to focus attention on her other community responsibilities, Russ Eames, a retired *Telegram & Gazette* reporter and store volunteer, came forward to coordinate store activities. The Friends are extremely grateful to both of these individuals for their efforts, and invite the interest of more potential volunteers – the need for help is ongoing!

NEW THEMES FOR FREE FILM FEST

The spring schedule for the Friends Film Festival (see details in calendar, page 2) offers themes with something for everyone: Irish movies in March, baseball in April, and horseracing in May. Baseball fan Sibyl Farson will introduce the April movies, and some of the others, with celebrity tidbits drawn from her long career as an entertainment writer.

CHECK THIS OUT!

Self-help has arrived at circulation services, allowing library patrons to check out books as easily as they scan their own groceries. Located across from the library cards desk on the first floor, a table-top device scans your card, then the book(s), and issues a receipt bearing the due date. If a problem arises, the device refers you to the circulation desk. Currently, only children's books and new fiction and nonfiction can be self-checked, but the staff is in the process of converting the rest of the collections for this convenient option.



SPRING AHEAD TO FRIENDS BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Worcester Public Library have plenty of good books lined up for their book sale on Friday and Saturday, April 2-3, in the Saxe Room (see calendar for hours). It's been more than a year since the last Friends' sale, so the number of donated books has grown to ensure a wide variety at bargain prices.

For example, it's a great opportunity for home-schoolers, parents, and grandparents to stock up on children's books. What's more, there are hundreds of paperbacks in good condition, plus books in the computer, lifestyle, and child-rearing categories. Sale proceeds will benefit library programs; in the meantime, donations of books and tapes continue to be accepted at the library.

AUTHOR CREDITS 'FRUIT' OF LIBRARY BRANCH

Born and raised in Worcester, Noah Gordon is one of 21 Brookline authors who reminisced on literature, libraries, and life for a publication of the Brookline Library Foundation titled "The Fruitful Branch."

Recently, the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* reprinted Gordon's article, in which he credits the Worcester Public Library's former Billings Square Branch as "the fruitful branch that made me a writer." He recalls being 6 or 7 when his sister first brought him there, from their Grafton Hill three-decker, "and from that first moment [the books] called out to me."

He took several home and soon discovered that the way out of the 1930s Depression "was through the open pages of books." On a recent visit to the site, he writes, "I stood... and stared at the building that meant

so much to my life and others. Although inside the building all the physical volumes are gone, so many of its books always will be part of my mind and soul. That's the magical gift made by every good library."

Noah Gordon's works include *The Rabbi* and *Physician*; his latest book, *The Last Jew*, is now in paperback.

QUABBIN IS TOPIC FOR ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER

The author of 15 books about New England history and environment will be the featured speaker at the Friends' annual meeting Wednesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. in the Saxe Room. Michael Tougias, a Franklin resident, author of *Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide*, and a columnist for several newspapers, will talk about construction of the reservoir, its lost towns, and natural habitat. All are welcome to attend the program, which will follow a brief business meeting.

FRIEND-LY NOTES

➤ **Greeters are among the more visible volunteers** who work at the library in support of regular staff members. The Friends appreciate the help of greeters Judy Jones and Chantay Smith, as well as the library's many other volunteers whose work takes them behind the scenes. To learn

more about opportunities for volunteering at the library, please contact Denise Faucher at 508-799-1642 or at dfaucher@cwmares.org.

➤ **Striving to meet the needs of its 13- to 18-year-old patrons**, the young adult area of the library provides them with their own first-floor space to hang out. There's a wide range of fiction and periodicals for this age group, and resources include a "Cope Collection" to help with issues they face in their daily lives. See YA calendar note in this issue on the Teen Advisory Group formed to help advise staff on the needs of this age group.

➤ **To celebrate the library's five "open for business" Sundays in February**, the Friends presented free afternoon programs featuring the recent hit film "Seabiscuit," the Post Road women's chorus, the WPI Brass Ensemble, award-winning children's book illustrator Nicole Tadgell, and the James Fidlon Jazz Quartet.

SPRING 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS *All programs are free!*

MAIN LIBRARY

Friends Book Sale

Friday, April 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friends Film Festival

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saxe Room

— Irish Movies —

March 2: "Waking Ned Devine"

After Ned's death, friends scheme to claim his lottery winnings; a hilarious tale starring Susan Lynch, 1998. (PG)

March 9: "Secret of Roan Inish"

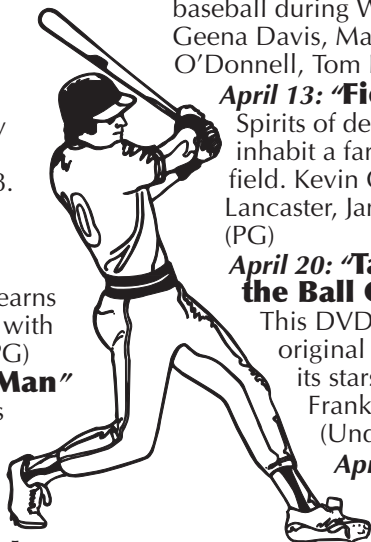
After World War II, a girl learns family history while living with her grandparents, 1995. (PG)

March 16: "The Quiet Man"

An American returns to his childhood village and finds love. John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Barry Fitzgerald, 1952. (NR)

March 23: "Angela's Ashes"

Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of his Irish childhood; Emily Watson, Robert Carlyle, 1999. (R)



March 30: "The Field"

Richard Harris earned an Oscar nomination for this film set in rural Ireland, 1991. (PG13)

— Baseball Movies —

April 6: "A League of Their Own"

True story of women's professional baseball during World War II stars Geena Davis, Madonna, Rosie O'Donnell, Tom Hanks, 1992. (PG)

April 13: "Field of Dreams"

Spirits of dead baseball players inhabit a farmer's new baseball field. Kevin Costner, Burt Lancaster, James Earl Jones, 1989. (PG)

April 20: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

This DVD production includes original trailers and notes on its stars. Esther Williams, Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly. (Undated, NR)

April 27: "The Natural"

To help his team get to the World Series, a player must fight his past. Glenn Close, Kim Basinger, Robert Duvall, Robert Redford, 1984. (PG)

— Horseracing Movies —

May 4: "Seabiscuit"

Chris Cooper, Jeff Bridges and Tobey Maguire turn a long-shot racehorse into a legend, 2003. (PG13)

May 11: "National Velvet"

A girl trains her horse to compete in England's Grand National. Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, 1944. (G)

May 18: "The Black Stallion"

A boy and a horse survive a shipwreck together, then train for a race. Mickey Rooney, Teri Garr, 1979. (G)

May 25: "The Sting"

Two con artists played by Paul Newman and Robert Redford try to outwit a racketeer in 1930s Chicago. Best Picture of 1973. (PG)

Children's Activities

For up-dated information, pick up a current monthly schedule at children's information desk.

Baby Time

Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.

For infants to 16 months with caregivers: rhymes, songs, and fun followed by optional play time.

Lots for Tots

Every Friday, 10 a.m.

For toddlers 16 to 24 months: a language enrichment program with books, rhymes, pictures, songs, and fingerplays, and optional play time.

Story Time

*Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29;
April 5, 12, 10 a.m.*

For preschoolers aged 3-5, experience with stories, fingerplays, and more! Registration required, 508-799-1655

Young People's Poetry Week

April 12-18

Stop in to create a poetry display and learn more about our annual evening of poetry reading.

Vacation Week Film

Wednesday, April 21, 10:30 a.m.

Children's feature "Sindbad: Legend of the Seven Seas" in the Saxe Room.

Celebration of Spring

Monday, April 26, 10 a.m.

Story time about flowers and gardening; groups please call ahead, 508-799-1672.

Dia de los Ninos,

Dia de los Libros

Friday, April 30.

A day to remember the power of words and of books in young people's lives; stop by children's room for information.

Young Adults

TAG! You're It!

*Wednesdays, March 10, April 14,
May 12, 3:30 p.m.*

The Teen Advisory Group for ages 13-18 plans events, advises the library, and shares ideas. Call 508-799-1672.

Grants Resource Center

Orientation to the funding research process, using resources of the library's center, a Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center in New York. Registration required; call 508-799-1655.

Tuesday, March 2, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 6, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 4, 9:30 a.m.

Genealogy Programs

Banx Room, unless otherwise noted. Registration required; call 508-799-1670 and leave message.

It's All Relative

Wednesdays, March 3, 2:30 p.m.;
April 21, 9:30 a.m.; May 19, 6:30 p.m.

Genealogy and the Internet

Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.

Internet research tools, in the computer lab; limited to 10 registrants.

Using the Census

Wednesday, May 5, 2:30 p.m.

Public Meetings

Worcester Public Library Board of Directors

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

Friends of Worcester Public Library Board

*Tuesdays, March 16, May 18, 4 p.m.,
Green Room*

Friends of Worcester Public Library Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 7 p.m.

FRANCES PERKINS BRANCH

Special March Exhibit

"Celebrating Worcester Women" is the Worcester Women's History Project's display at Greendale for March, National Women's History Month.

Adult Brown Bag Group

Perkins Room lunch and discussion about women detectives, books to lose sleep over, and award winners:

Sassy Tarts and Tough Cookies

Thursday, March 4, 12:15 p.m.

Psychopaths and Serial Killers

Thursday, April 1, 12:15 p.m.

It Took the Blue Ribbon

Thursday, May 6, 12:15 p.m.

Children's Activities

P.J. Story Time

*Fridays, March 19, April 16, May 21,
7 p.m.*

Put on your jammies for evening stories, songs, and a bedtime snack.

GREAT BROOK VALLEY BRANCH

Children's Activities

Waterwheels and Windmills

Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 3:30 p.m.

Higgins Armory's presentation on medieval technology!

ABCs of Fire Safety

Wednesday, March 10, 3:30 p.m.

American Red Cross's program on being careful about fire.



Let's Spring Ahead!

Wednesdays, April 7, 14, 28, 3 p.m.

Getting ready for warmer days and flowers with our spring read-a-loud.

Comic Connection

*Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24,
3:30 p.m.*

Registration required to make your own comic book with Mr. Frank.

Pots of Gold

Wednesday, May 12, 3:30 p.m.

Plant your own marigold seeds, watch them grow!

To keep up with activities at the library, visit www.worcpublib.org and click on events calendar.

JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Name: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Please choose a class of membership according to contribution:

- General \$10
- Patron \$50
- Corporate Contributor
- My company's Matching Gift form is enclosed
- Supporting \$25
- Benefactor \$_____ (\$100 or more)

Our membership year runs February 1 through January 31. Contributions to the Friends are tax deductible. If paying by check, please make payable to Friends of Worcester Public Library, Inc. Send to: Friends of WPL, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

At the main library

March: Student Works

St. Peter-Marian High School students' art on view.

April-May: Recent Art

Reception, Saturday, April 24, 3:30 p.m.

A variety of Pelham artist Amy Wasserman's works, including paintings, oil pastels, and improvisational wall hangings; Saxe Room.

May: Cape Cod and Strange Places

Reception, Tuesday, May 8, 6-8 p.m.

Sam Lalos's realistic paintings of the Cape, plus pastels, acrylics, and watercolors.

FRIEND-LY READING LIST

"The Book is Always Better than the Movie" book suggestions from the National Book Foundation.
<http://www.nationalbook.org/nbmreadlist.html>

- ♣ *Bastard Out of Carolina*, Dorothy Allison, 1992
- ♣ *Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War*, Mark Bowden, 1999
- ♣ *House of Sand and Fog*, Andre Dubus III, 1999
- ♣ *Cold Mountain*, Charles Frazier, 1997
- ♣ *A Civil Action*, Jonathan Harr, 1995
- ♣ *Le Divorce*, Diane Johnson, 1997
- ♣ *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee, 1961
- ♣ *All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy, 1992
- ♣ *The Shipping News*, E. Annie Proulx, 1993
- ♣ *Sophie's Choice*, William Styron, 1980

LIBRARY HOURS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Main Library

3 Salem Square

Phone: 508-799-1655

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday and Sunday closed

Books 'n' More Store

Monday 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Note: Current hours posted on door.

Great Brook Valley Branch

89 Tacoma Street

Phone: 508-799-1729

Monday through Thursday
2 to 5 p.m.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
closed

Frances Perkins Branch at Greendale

470 West Boylston Street

Phone: 508-799-1687

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday,
Sunday closed

Worcester Public Library Website Address: www.worcpublic.org

Explore the library's website for important and interesting library information and easy referencing.

LIBRARY HOLIDAYS

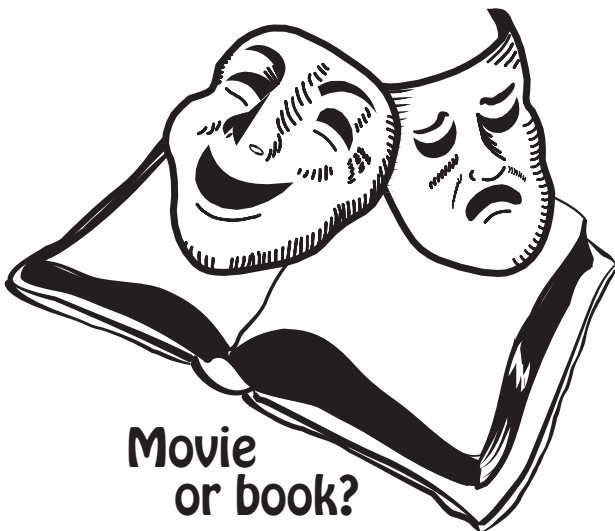
The library will be closed as follows:

Monday, April 19, Patriots Day

Monday, May 31, Memorial Day

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WORCESTER, MA 01608

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or book?

How about both!