

Footnotes

Friends of the Newburyport Public Library



www.newburyportpl.org

September 2011, Volume 21, Number 3

Save the Date!

Dubus to Read from His Memoir and Discuss Writing at Friends Event



The Friends of the Library is thrilled to announce a single-evening event featuring a reading and discussion by Andre Dubus III, a world-renowned writer who lives in Newbury. (See Amantha Moore's "Dear Friends," opposite, for more about Andre and the event.)

After reading from his most recent book, *Townie: A Memoir*, Andre will discuss his writing, both past and present, and many of these titles will be available for sale that evening.

We look forward to welcoming you to this free event—Thursday, September 22, at 7:00—in the auditorium at Newburyport City Hall (60 Pleasant Street).

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Dear Friends,

I'm excited to tell you that Friends of the Library will hold a very special event in late September. We are hosting an evening with local author Andre Dubus III, who will read from his latest book, *Townie: A Memoir*.

In this story, he recounts his experiences growing up in nearby Haverhill. Novelist Richard Russo calls *Townie* a "meditation on violence, its sources, consequences, and, especially, its terrifying pleasures." The local landmarks along with area readers' familiarity with Haverhill bring Andre's story very close to the sensitivities and awareness of many of us.

Earlier books by Andre have included stories, essays, and screenplays as well as such highly regarded novels as *The Garden of Last Days* and *House of Sand and Fog*, which was both an Oprah Book Club pick and finalist for the National Book Award and went on to become an Oscar-nominated movie.

At 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 22, Andre will offer a brief reading from *Townie*, then discuss what both separates and binds these distinct writing forms. His books will be available for purchase at this event.

If you have yet to read *Townie*, this review by Anita Shreve, also a New England author, may inspire you to check out Andre's book: "Compelling, riveting, gritty and astonishingly moving, Dubus's memoir, *Townie*, achieves that rarest of qualities: It makes us love the boy who becomes the man."

Because we expect this free event to be very well-attended, it is being presented at Newburyport City Hall Auditorium, which is handicapped accessible. Light refreshments will be served.

See you at the Library—and at City Hall!

Amantha Moore
President, Friends of the Library

Brain Teaser

by Al Lavender

In this issue, by way of reminding you of and inviting you to an important upcoming event, we ask you to make as many words as possible from the letters comprised by the term:

ANNUAL MEETING

As usual, the words must include at least three letters and be found in—or implied by—Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Non-English words and proper nouns (i.e., Capitalized Words) will not be counted toward the total score.

Entries are limited to one per member. Please send it to Al Lavender, 10 Rawson Hill Road, Newburyport, MA 01950 (or via e-mail to: allavender@comcast.net) no later than September 30, 2011. The winner will be whoever comes up with the most words. In the event of a tie, the winner will be drawn from among those submitting the most words.

Contest Results

The last Brain Teaser asked you to solve seven anagrams, each of which revealed the name of an American novelist. The anagrams and their corresponding authors were:

1. WHAT I RECALL — Willa Cather
2. JOKE HID PUN — John Updike
3. UNSOCIAL PRINT — Upton Sinclair
4. MAN TO CAPTURE — Truman Capote
5. DRUM OR BULLET — Robert Ludlum
6. NEAR ROLE MODEL — Elmore Leonard
7. LIKELY SPICE MAN — Mickey Spillane

Congratulations to Glenn Myers, winner of this contest. His name was randomly chosen from the four contestants submitting correct answers, who include Jean Berger, Paula Green, and John Harris.



Online Resources at NPL

Genealogy Databases

NPL offers a wide array of genealogical materials to the public. In addition to the original documents and books housed in the Archival Center, cardholders can also access some excellent genealogical databases. These databases can all be accessed from any public internet computer at the library, and NPL cardholders can also access HeritageQuest Online from home.

Heritage Quest Online offers access to vital records, census records, and other information. (To access this database from outside the library, go to WWW.NEWBURYPORTPL.ORG/SERVICES/ONLINE-RESOURCES, scroll to “Genealogy”; next to “HeritageQuest Online,” click “From Home.”)

Ancestry.com offers a large variety of historic documents and records.

NPL also has a subscription to New England Historic Genealogical Society Online.

Contact the Reference Desk at 978-465-4428 (ext. 226) or the Archival Center (ext 231), if you have any questions about these services.



Legal Forms

The library has a variety of electronic resources available to library patrons, including one many may find very useful: Legal Forms. Offered by Gale, it gives you access to a variety of forms that may suit your legal needs. Templates range from sample wills to power of attorney forms to leases. You may access this database from home or from a library computer. All you need is your NPL card number.

Legal Forms is accessible from our electronic resources page, right on the NPL website, WWW.NEWBURYPORTPL.ORG/SERVICES/ONLINE-RESOURCES, scroll to “Business and Legal Resources,” then click on the link next to “Legal Forms.”



Tell Us How We Can Help

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

Area Authors: Fran Larkin



In his 2009 book 5 Words and Then Some: How to Succeed in This Big Game We Call Life, Fran Larkin sets out to assist readers in their search for meaning in life. For this “Area Authors,” Deborah Chiaravalloti interviewed Mr. Larkin and gained insight not only into his ideas on this topic, but also how he is able to put them to work in this own life. The

NPL has three copies, which are shelved in the third-floor stacks (call number: 158.1 Lar).

DEBORAH CHIARAVOLLOTTI: *Your book is simple, and yet filled with so much wisdom. How did you boil down a common sense, positive approach to life into just five words?*

FRAN LARKIN: As I was writing the book, I spent time reflecting on why I have had such a wonderful life. I came from humble beginnings and overcame personal challenges to achieve good things in my lifetime. I asked myself How did it happen? And I realized that it was those five words—Hard Work, Attitude, Enthusiasm, Perseverance, Fun—that were keys to everything. Then I dedicated a chapter to each word, and gave examples of how the reader can practice them in their own daily life.

DC: *Did this book come to you in bits and pieces over the course of time, like a collection of sticky notes? Or did you write it at one time based on your approach to life?*

FL: It started out as a collection of notes I typed up and put in binders to give out as graduation presents to my nieces and nephews. I just kept adding to them, and finally I had enough examples, quotes, and anecdotes for a book. The process took a couple of years.

DC: *After reading your book, I found myself thinking about your “and then some more” advice—“Use your blinker” and “Say hello or good morning to everyone you meet or pass,” for example. I surprise myself everytime I do these things, because reading your book reminds me to! As a society, are we so stressed that we forget basic niceties?*

FL: I think we have become very stressed as a society, and sometimes we do forget these basics. That’s why I mention them here and they also link to the “Values” included in the “Vision” chapter. My parents

and family instilled them in me. It disturbs me to see them lacking so much in daily life today. As a society we all need to be kinder and more considerate to each other. A key theme in my book and on my website is that all of us should do some things “to make gentle the life of this world.”

DC: *Why did you include a section on holidays?*

FL: Everyone is so busy these days, and often a holiday is just another three-day weekend or an extra day or two off from work. I believe we need to pause for a few minutes, at the very least, and reflect on a particular holiday and why we observe it. When we did that in my family, something very special usually happened. By remembering, and discussing with our families, the reason we celebrate these holidays, we create a time to teach history, reflect on sacrifice, and relate our family’s oral history and traditions.

DC: *Why do you think people find it so difficult to make time for themselves, when it is perhaps one of the most important things we can do to relieve stress?*

FL: Depending on the stage of life we are in, we may be busy raising the kids or taking care of our aging parents. Many of us get involved in community activities, we overcommit and then become stressed out as we try to juggle all these activities. We must find some time each day for ourselves, however, or someone else will be taking care of us! Most important, make time for hobbies you love. Read or exercise or volunteer. Guard yourself against making your entire life about work. Make sure you “work to live” instead of “live to work.” The key to happy longevity? Keeping work, home, and family in balance.

DC: *You say this book started as a gift to your nieces and nephews. Did they understand what you were trying to tell them? Or do we need to age a bit for your advice to ring true?*

FL: I wrote the book for high school and college graduates. Based on the letters, emails, and comments I have received, I know they understand what I am telling them. I hope they will implement it all! The book is relevant for people of all ages. I usually call my talks “The Secrets of Success.” Following the simple wisdom and practical advice in this book, you can succeed at any age, in any way you choose.

(continued on following page)

Area Authors: Fran Larkin (continued from page 3)

DC: *Perhaps your toughest assignment may be writing a personal mission, vision, and values statement. Many people may freeze when they sit down to do this. How do you recommend they start?*

FL: Some extra effort and thinking are required to develop a Vision, Values, Mission, and Goals statement for yourself, but it is worth the time and thought. Start by thinking about what you want to be or do with your life. It all starts there.



Think about it. Probably the most important decision we make in life is what we want to do or who we want to be after we graduate. Yet hardly anyone takes the time to think about it. Write down your vision in pencil, think about it, erase it, change it, leave it alone for a few days, come back to it. Tweak it. Then develop your moral compass, or value statement, and determine your goals to achieve your vision. Studies have shown we are 10 times more apt to achieve our goals if we write them down!

DC: *Can the statement be changed every day? Are these a person's goals, or more a statement of being?*

FL: The Vision, Values, and Mission statement should not change until later in your life. Your retirement vision will be different than the one you have when you graduate. Goals should be accomplished, crossed off, and new ones added throughout the year. This is a living, breathing process throughout your life.

DC: *Do you have another book—or more—in you?*

FL: I am 80 percent done with a memoir of growing up in the 50s and 60s on Cape Cod that I've called *The Cranberry Chronicles*. Some of the highlights include witnessing the birth of rock and roll, living through the Cold War, the Berlin crisis, the Cuban Missile crisis, Civil Rights, and the death of President John F. Kennedy. And

(concludes opposite)

Friends' 2011 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Newburyport Public Library will be at 5:30 pm on September 13th in the library's Program Room. It is open to the public, and all are welcome. The regular business meeting of the Friends' Executive Board will begin immediately following the Annual Meeting, at approximately 6:00.



NPL Can Help You Go Green!

Should I bother to turn off my computer at night?

Will it pay for me to trade in that old refrigerator, dryer, or dishwasher—even though it still works fine—for a new, energy-efficient model?

I keep the battery charger for my phone or cordless electric drill plugged in continually for convenience. How much is this costing me per month?

You can find answers to questions like these by connecting a Kill-A-Watt device to your appliances and reading the electricity consumption by kilowatt hour on the large LCD display. Once you know the number of hours, simply multiply it by what rate you pay your utility rates.

Thanks to the generosity of Blue Selenium Solar, Inc., the library has four Kill-A-Watt devices to lend. With a valid library card, you may borrow one for a three-week period. Ask for it at the Circulation Desk.



I talk about some fun stuff like taking a 50-mile hike to Boston, and the Beatles, and the "English Invasion." I also have completed outlines of two fiction books, adventure/thrillers, that I hope to turn into novels someday, and I am writing some poetry in open verse.

~ Deborah Chiaravalloti, Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing at Anna Jaques Hospital, began her career as a broadcast journalist and, as such, always enjoys the opportunity to interview interesting people, like Fran Larkin.

Fran Dalton Photographs Donated

The Newburyport Archival Center is very fortunate to have been chosen as the repository for the Fran Dalton photograph collection. An anonymous donor gave this trove of images to the NAC. Some of the 131 photographs in the collection were made using color film, while others are black and white. They are arranged into groups by location—Ireland, Boston, Newburyport, and Salisbury—then subdivided by subject. Newburyport headings include People, Street Scenes, Cemeteries, Landscapes, Seascapes, Nature, and Textures. Also part of the collection is an acrylic painting from 1975 of a sailboat.

After Fran Dalton came to Newburyport in the late 1960s and early 1970s, she became involved in the local artistic community, enthusiastically documenting it in photographs and writing as well as giving back to individuals in the community in both spiritual and pragmatic ways.

Many of the photographs presented conservation challenges. Some that were matted and others mounted on foamcore. Most of the mats contained mold, so those that could safely be removed from their backings were removed and their mats discarded. Once cleaned, the photographs were placed in acid-free folders, which will preserve them indefinitely.



Self-Check Coming

Look for self-check stations in the library in October

This fall, the Newburyport Public Library plans to offer patrons the option of using a self-check station at the main desk or in the Children's Room. This easy-to-use equipment will be a great service addition for patrons who are in a hurry or prefer the convenience and privacy of checking out their own materials. While staff members at the public desks will continue to be available for checkout and other services, the new self-check machines will permit them to provide even more effective customer service to the large number of daily library users.

Funding has been provided generously by the Newburyport Area Industrial Development (NAID) Foundation and the Friends of the Library.

Great Old Book Sale, Fall 2011 Edition

In no time at all, the Friends' second book sale of the year will be underway. Not only are we looking forward to seeing all Friends—old hands and newbies alike—but we hope to receive the usual complement of book donations.

As with every book sale, we need volunteers to sort books, assist customers, and generally maintain the Program Room (those books have a way of wandering...if not multiplying).

Below are the dates. Mark your calendars now, and get ready to help make the Friends' November 2011 sale another one for the books!

October 17

Volunteer sign-up book available in library lobby

October 29 (9:00 am)

*Book collection begins in library lobby
Sale setup and book sorting (new-volunteer
orientations at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm)*

October 30–November 2 (until noon)

Sale setup and book sorting

November 2

*Preview Night (Friends members only; numbers
distributed at 4:00 pm; doors open at 6:30)*

November 3 and 4 (9:00 am until closing)

Autumn 2011 Great Old Book Sale

November 5 (9:00 am until 3:00 pm)

*Saturday Blow-out! Astounding price reduction—
Everything must go!*

What's Happening at NPL?

A variety of ways exist to get information about scheduled events, programs, and other library news.

The library's website—WWW.NEWBURYPORTPL.ORG—offers a news feature (in the middle of the homepage) as well as our events calendar. The Newburyport Public Library Facebook page also highlights current happenings at the library.

In the library you will find listings of events and news on the first-floor bulletin board (next to the elevator), on signs posted at the librarian service desks on each floor, and on the easel located in the lobby. Of course, our librarians are always happy to answer your questions in person or by phone.

NPL Autumn Programs for Adults

Join us this fall as we launch a variety of new events that will be sure to be popular with adults. All are open to the public and, unless noted otherwise, take place in the Newburyport Public Library Program Room.

Movie Matinees

Even though summer is now ending, you still have time to catch a free Tuesday movie matinee—through September 20. Come watch with us on the big screen at 2 pm. Bring along some popcorn and a cold drink to enjoy at the show!

September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

The film *Wit* will be shown at the Firehouse Center for the Arts. This made-for-television movie starring Emma Thompson tells the story of a college professor diagnosed with stage-IV ovarian cancer. In addition, on Wednesdays, September 14 and 21, a two-part workshop now being planned will be tailored to complement the film.

October—All Things Historical

☼ NPL is planning a beginner's genealogy class conducted by Cecil Pimental in the Archival Center. Check the NPL website for the fall schedule. Registration for this class will be limited.

☼ Enjoy an October evening of history when Alan Hoffman gives a talk on the life of Lafayette.

November—Honoring Veterans

☼ The library will host a program honoring veterans with popular guest John Katsaros, a veteran and author of *Code Burgundy: The Long Escape*. Local artist Rob Brun will join him. This program is sure to bring to life a moment in history.

☼ The *Russian Matryoshka Nesting Dolls Workshop* with Marina Forbes will take place on Saturday, November 19, from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. Listen to storytelling and learn the history behind the traditional folk doll at this unique, hands-on workshop.

December—Here Come the Holidays...

☼ End the year with a few stress-free evenings. Local instructors will provide classes for your mind, body, and spirit! Sample yoga, tai-chi, goal-setting for the approaching new year, and meditation.

☼ Make a holiday pin with local artist Pam Farren.

☼ And, be sure to take time from the holiday rush to enjoy the four-part harmony, a cappella singing of the Merrimack Valley Townsman Barbershop Chorus.

In the Offing

☼ Watch the library schedule for news of our upcoming, always popular "Tips and Pointers" program with local writers.

Overdue? Two approaches...

1. The Conscience Box

Have you ever let a library book become overdue? Of course you have! And, you may have noticed that fines are no longer charged. Instead, there is a Conscience Box, and you are invited to assuage your guilt by making a contribution.

The money put in the box goes to the Friends of the Library General Fund, and it is used to pay for library materials. We don't want to encourage you to be tardy in returning your books, but anytime you're feeling guilty—about anything!—feel free to make everything okay by popping some conscience money in the box. You'll feel better right away...really!



2. Poundstone Weighs In

Comedian Paula Poundstone is the National Spokesperson for the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF). Here is her take on libraries in America:

"It's funny that we think of libraries as quiet, demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is, libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy, and community. Librarians have stood up to the Patriot Act, sat down with noisy toddlers, and reached out to illiterate adults.

Libraries can never be shushed. If you haven't been to your library lately, you're overdue."

Treasure Hunting

An old, damaged portrait was found in the library when much of the contents of the Friends' Room was relocated. After some research in the Archival Center with the help of the librarians, we now know that it is a portrait of Michael Hodge Simpson, one of our original "Friends."

Born in Newburyport in 1809, Simpson became a wealthy merchant and mill owner in Boston. He continued to make substantial charitable contributions to Newburyport including money for the improvement of Bartlet Mall, building a road on Plum Island, and funding equipment and personnel to sprinkle Newburyport's streets in the summer to keep the dust down. He offered to give the U.S. Congress \$50,000 to build a jetty at Plum Island. Although his offer was declined, the jetty was funded anyway.

In 1881 he gave \$22,000 for the library reading room addition to the Tracy mansion, and the "Simpson Annex" was dedicated the following year. His portrait, painted by Edgar Parker of Boston, was presented to the Newburyport Public Library in 1884 shortly before his death.

Currently, the painting is being evaluated in terms of value and to determine whether restoration is feasible. We would welcome recommendations for a specialist in painting restoration, especially one from the Friends' community.

Among other treasures uncovered during this transition were several items that have been passed along to other libraries. For example, a sheaf of Seabrook Historical Marriage and Birth Records was delivered to the Seabrook Public Library and the Brooklyn Public Library in New York City was thrilled to receive a priceless handwritten cash ledger from the Brooklyn Boys High School dated 1892. It will be housed in their Brooklyn Collection.

Teen Loft News

Fall into the Teen Loft this autumn, and join us for a variety of programs that will cultivate your creativity and invigorate your intellect. For program listings and descriptions, please visit our online events calendar at WWW.NEWBURYPORTPL.ORG/EVENTS or our Newburyport Public Library Teen Loft Facebook fan page.

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

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The Friends of the Newburyport Public Library is a nonprofit organization under IRS Section 501(c)3. Contributions are allowable to donors to the extent that contributions are gifts with no consideration received.

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

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September 2011

Autumn Hours ~

Main Library

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–9:00 pm

Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Saturday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Sunday (closed through October 9);

beginning October 16, 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)

