

Footnotes

Friends of the Newburyport Public Library



www.newburyportpl.org

June 2010, Volume 20, Number 2

Shifting into Overdrive. . . NPL Now Offers eBooks!

Do you have one of those nifty new eBook readers? Now you can download eBooks for free through the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium Overdrive website (www.mvlc.lib.overdrive.com) or via the NPL website (www.newburyportpl.org)! When you visit the NPL home page, simply click on “View Online Resources,” then select “Overdrive.”

Except for Amazon.com’s Kindle, most eBook readers are compatible with Overdrive titles—check the Overdrive “Digital Help” section for more information.

Overdrive is also your source for downloadable audio books. Our collection of digital audio books now includes titles for Apple products, including the iPod.

Questions? Stop by the Information Desk on the second floor, or give the library staff a call at (978) 465-4428, extension 226.

Ghlee Woodworth to Address Friends’ 2010 Annual Meeting

Save the date! On Tuesday, September 28, historian and author Ghlee Woodworth will be guest of honor and speaker at the Friends of the Library’s Annual Meeting. Ghlee is well known locally for her fascinating Tiptoe Through the Tombstones tours of Newburyport cemeteries. Drawing on her knowledge of area history and lore, she sheds light on many compelling lives in Newburyport’s past. In 2009, Ghlee published the first volume of her work in progress, and in her talk, she will also address her research and writing adventures.

Dear Friends,

Beginning with this issue, we hope to add a couple of new features to “Footnotes,” and we look to you, our Friends, for help. Our plan is to publish author interviews and biographies (see “Area Authors” on page 3) and book reviews.

As the Newburyport Literary Festival annually demonstrates, this North-of-Boston area teems with authors as it has for centuries. They all have stories to tell, and we’d like to read more about them, their work, and their lives. You can help us either by conducting an interview and reporting on what the author shared with you or by writing a brief biography of a favorite author from days gone by.

Remember those great book reports you wrote—or maybe still write—for school? Didn’t you just love doing that? If the answer is *yes*, we need you! This time, however, you won’t be graded, there will be no red pen slashes across your paper, and our editor will review your work and tweak it as needed.

Our aim for both of these new features is to highlight materials you can borrow from the Newburyport Public Library. So feel free to review a movie, and audio book, or work in CD format. We’d like a recap of the content and, of course, a dash of opinion, too! Who knows...? Maybe writing for “Footnotes” will open the book to your first published writing? Please call or email if you are interested.

See you at the Library!

Amantha Moore, President
Friends of the Library
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Brain Teaser

Al Lavender

What United States city's name can transform into the name of another United States city if you change both of the letter *as* into *es*?

Hint: The first city lies east of the Mississippi; the other is to its west.

Contest Results

The correct answers to the last contest were:

1. In a museum in Havana there are two skulls of Christopher Columbus: one when he was a boy and one when he was a man. —*Mark Twain*
2. To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else. —*Emily Dickinson*
3. There are a terrible lot of lies going about the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true. —*Winston Churchill*
4. You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on. —*Dean Martin*
5. Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity—and I'm not sure about the universe. —*Albert Einstein*
6. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the *Titanic*. —*Author unknown*

Congratulations to the winner, *Eleanor Palmer!* Her name was randomly drawn from those of the three people submitting correct answers, the other two of whom were Robert Brown and Sheila Johnson.



Plum Island Aviation Prints on Exhibit

During May and June, local graphic artist Bruce Carter celebrates aviation history in Massachusetts in a mini print show in the Reading Room of the Newburyport Public Library. Three scenes depict the launching of the first flight from Plum Island in 1910.

Asked about his interest in local aviation, Mr. Carter stated that, “since retiring in 2002, my interest in aviation has taken me on a journey back to 1910 when, on Plum Island during the spring and summer, Starling Burgess created the first aviation field in Massachusetts to test his flying machines. In an effort to bring the two time periods together, my images are composites of 1910 aircraft photos and present-day landscapes of where the original events took place. To local folk, High Sandy, the Plum Island Turnpike skyline, and Old Town Hill will be obvious landmarks. I photographed these landscapes just as the morning sun rose over the dunes, after obtaining a special permit from the Parker River Wildlife Refuge to enter the area.”

The library staff encourages everyone to view these fascinating prints.

Literary Festival 2010 Provides Architectural Tour of the World

Amantha Moore

Giles Laroche's presentation during the Newburyport Literary Festival was a trip! Around the world, I mean. . . .

Laroche's new book *What's Inside?* is colorful and eye-catching and is filled with fine art created with drawing and, more uniquely, paper, glue, and scissors. His intricate three-dimensional layered-paper cutouts are carefully photographed so that their original depth is apparent. Laroche showed some of the book's original art, which allowed the audience to appreciate the amazing detail and precision of each page. He transported it in specially created cases so it would not be crushed.

The book's subjects are famous architectural structures from around the world, such as the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, the Opera House in

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Area Authors

Each year, a principal focus of the Newburyport Literary Festival is on encouraging recognition and offering exposure for the writers of all stripes who call this region “home.” To the surprise of the festival’s steering committee, however, many avid local readers have little awareness of writing by people who live in their own backyards. With that in mind, this issue of “Footnotes” inaugurates “Area Authors,” a column we hope will pique interest in local writing and send readers to library stacks to discover—or rediscover—their local literary heritage.

We enthusiastically invite you to contribute to this column by submitting brief essays, interviews, or musing about favorite Newburyport-area writers, living or dead. For more information, please send inquiries by mail to the Friends, call *Amantha Moore* (978-462-8059), or send a query via email to: scanmoores@juno.com and/or wingchair@mac.com.

The first “Area Authors” column profiles *John P. Marquand*, perhaps the best-known novelist to hail from Newburyport, and namesake for the newly launched Marquand Award. On April 25, at the close of the 2010 Newburyport Literary Festival, which was dedicated to him, his grandchildren, *Beth* and *Richard Welch*, presented the first-ever Marquand Award to novelist *Anita Shreve*. It is only fitting, then, that we profile him as our first Area Author.

John Phillips Marquand (1893–1960)

J. P. Marquand could be said to have been born with New England literary life “in his blood.” His mother was namesake and niece of *Margaret Fuller*, the famous writer, editor, author, and feminist; one aunt had been courted by *Whittier* and another had lived at *Brook Farm*. Although born in *Wilmington, Delaware*, at age 13 family economic exigencies sent Marquand to live with his maiden aunts—*Margaret Russell Curzon* and *Molly* and *Bessie Marquand*—at *Curzon’s Mill*. Here he established a lifelong connection to Newburyport, which became a major influence on his writing. His experience of being simultaneously a struggling outsider and a descendant of New England’s founding elite strongly influenced Marquand’s work, which was often characterized by its satirical view of social class and customs viewed from both sides.

He enrolled in *Newburyport High School* (class of 1910), making the eight-mile round-trip journey to school each day on foot, bicycle, horse cart, or streetcar, then went on to earn his degree in chemistry at *Harvard*, where he was also an editor of the prestigious *Harvard Lampoon*. After a stint in the military during *World War I*, he became a journalist and copywriter in *New York*, but these occupations fell short of his literary ambitions. He returned to *Curzon’s Mill* and began writing a series of satirical fiction pieces for mass-circulation magazines, such as *Saturday Evening Post* and *Colliers*, which found him both a significant audience and financial success. *The Unspeakable Gentleman* (1922), Marquand’s first novel, increased his wealth and permitted him to travel widely, including a six-month sojourn in *China* and *Japan*. It was here that he got the idea for the popular mystery series featuring Japanese detective *Mr. Moto*, for which he won more fame and literary acclaim, especially once they were made into movies starring *Peter Lorre*.

In 1938, *The Late George Apley* won Marquand the *Pulitzer Prize*. It revealed the inner workings of *Boston Brahmin society*, setting the pattern for many of his later novels. From then on, the novelist’s career met with one success after another, with such works as *Wickford Point* (1939), *H. M. Pulham, Esq.* (1941), *So Little Time* (1943), *Point of No Return* (1949), and *Sincerely Willis Wayde* (1955), all of which achieved long runs on bestseller lists and jointly sold some ten million copies during Marquand’s lifetime.

Many of his novels are set in the small New England city of *Clyde*, which is easily recognizable as *Newburyport*. A number of the characters’ lives include episodes strongly reminiscent of Marquand’s own history. Local people probably recognized scenes and people from their own surroundings, and critics found that, in *Clyde*, the author had developed a setting that permitted him to report about social customs, personal ambitions, and class structures in American society in the tradition of *William Dean Howells*, *Sinclair Lewis*, and *Edith Wharton*. The influential literary critic *Granville Hicks* noted that Marquand’s observation of class structure in *Newburyport* was better than that of *W. Lloyd Warner* and his staff, who meticulously dissected the

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Survey for Five-Year Plan Nets Intriguing Results

The ongoing process of developing a new five-year plan for the NPL included a survey that was made available to community members, including library patrons. All told, 345 people responded, 247 of whom were Newburyport residents. Some results offered no surprises—the high esteem in which the library staff is held, for example—other answers offer an intriguing glimpse of local impressions of the place and its work. Following are some findings:

- close to 75 percent of those responding use the library at least once per week;
- a whopping 99 percent reported that they usually find what they are looking for;
- 67 percent actively utilize the library’s website, in particular to search the catalog and request materials;
- while the most frequently consulted source of library information was local newspapers, NPL’s website and bulletin board weren’t far behind, and “Footnotes” had a substantial following as well; and
- women were significantly more likely than men to answer the survey questions.

Laroche Architectural Tour (continued from page 2)

Sydney, Australia, and the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. After showing a building’s exterior on one page, its interior is shown, which exposes the “life” on the inside. Laroche devoted incredible attention to every detail—the buildings; their settings; and the people and activities in and around the structures.

He demonstrated how he uses simple tools to create his art and invited the audience to try their skills with scissors, paper, and glue. The results were very impressive!

No time (or money) for a trip around the world? *What’s Inside?* will turn you into an armchair traveler with x-ray vision! Although it may officially be listed as a children’s book, I would encourage anyone curious about architecture, other cultures, and creative art to check out this latest book by Giles Laroche. Along with a number of his other works, it is available at the Newburyport Public Library.

Newburyport Preservation Trust Gift Books

The NPL is grateful to the Newburyport Preservation Trust for its recent gift of a collection of books on local architecture and historic preservation. The books are all housed in the second-floor reference collection, and the library’s staff is pleased to make these important titles available for public use:

Asher Benjamin:

The American Builders Companion, 3rd and 6th editions

The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter (1830)

The Country Builder’s Assistant (1797)

Tedd Benson:

Building the Timber Frame House

Abbott Lowell Cummings:

The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625–1725

Marianne Cusato and Ben Pentreath:

Get Your House Right: Architectural Elements to Use and Avoid

James Garvin:

A Building History of Northern New England

Bethany Groff:

A Brief History of Old Newbury

Elizabeth Harris:

Documents, Legends and Archaeology: Unravelling the Mysteries of Newburyport’s Past

Historic Salem:

The Salem Handbook: A Renovation Guide for Homeowners

John Mead Howells:

The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack

Fiske Kimball:

Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies

Stephen A. Mouzon:

Traditional Construction Patterns

Jane Nylander

Our Own Snug Fireside: Images of the New England Home, 1760–1860

Windows on the Past: Four Centuries of New England Homes



Summer Library Programs for Children and Teens

Children's Room

Summer—and *Summer Reading*—are upon us in the Children's Room. Beginning in mid-June, all books on the Newburyport Public Schools' summer-reading lists will be made available to students entering kindergarten through 6th grade. These books will be set aside, making them easier to find, and will be labeled with the grade number to which they are assigned. Throughout the summer you may check the Newburyport Public Schools' website (www.newburyport.k12.ma.us) for complete information, including summer-reading book lists and assignments.

In the Children's Room we kick off summer with our Reading Logs, which will become available on Monday, June 14. Online registration (www.readsinma.org/newburyport) will also start that day. Students entering kindergarten through grade 6 are invited to participate by keeping track of the minutes they read or are read to. We will hold a prize drawing every Saturday morning, and all participants are invited to attend our end-of-summer ice cream party on Wednesday, August 18.

A variety of wonderful and exciting programs for all ages—many sponsored by the Friends of the Library—will be presented throughout the summer. Among the many original programs and events organized and planned by the Children's Room staff are: Sing Along with Marcus Gale, traveling tide pools, the Penguin Lady, Wingmasters, Pumppernickel Puppets, the Museum of Science's "Animal Invaders" program, sing-along with Tom Seiling, and clay sculpting with Ann McCrea, Curious Creatures.

Stop by the library in early June to pick up a calendar of summer events, and keep checking www.newburyportpl.org/events for the most up-to-date information on Children's programs!



Teen Programs

Note: Registration is encouraged for all events and required where noted. To register for any of these programs, visit the Information Desk or call (978) 465-4428, ext. 226. Visit the "Newburyport Public Library Teen Loft" fan page on Facebook and click "Like" to receive announcements and to RSVP online for events.

Father's Day Craft for Teens

The NPL invites teens in grades 7 through 12 to join us on Wednesday, June 9, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Children's Activity Room for *Father's Day Crafts for Teens*. We will create a handmade and heartfelt homage to the important males in our lives, whether they be a dad, grandpa, uncle, or someone else who provides love, support, and guidance. All materials and snacks will be provided.

Finals Frenzy: After-Hours Study Session

Stressed about studying for finals? Let the library help! We invite teens in grades 9 through 12 to join us after hours on Friday, June 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for *Finals Frenzy!* Break open your books, consult online content, and share mnemonic devices in our study-inducing space! Snacks will be provided. This event is limited to 25 studious teens, who must preregister and obtain an admission ticket at the Information Desk.

Text Messages: Teen Book Club

Teens entering grades 9 through 12 are invited to pick up a book and read for fun this summer. Not only will our discussions not be graded, but snacks will be consumed along with plenty of food for thought. Registration is required. Please sign up at the Information Desk or contact Andrea Bunker at (978) 465-4428, extension 226.

Our summer meetings will be in the Children's Activity Room, and the books will be:

- *Flash Burnout* by L. K. Madigan—Tuesday, June 22, 6–7 p.m.
- *North of Beautiful* by Justina Chen Headley—Tuesday, July 20, 6–7 p.m.
- A final book to be chosen by the book club—Tuesday, August 24, 6–7 p.m.

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Teen Programs for Summer 2010

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Go-Green Scavenger Hunt for Teens: Summer Reading Kick-Off

Teens who will be beginning grades 7 through 12 are invited to scour the NPL shelves for clues that lead to a treasure trove of green. The hunt begins in the Children's Activity Room

- Thursday, June 24, beginning at 10 a.m.

NewNoWriMo: Newburyport Novel Writing Month for Teens

Always too busy to write during *NaNoWriMo* (National Novel Writing Month) in November? Join other teens in grades 7 through 12 for inspiration and encouragement as you write that novel, play, short story, creative nonfiction piece, or any other work that you never seem to find time to write. Snacks will be provided at each session, which will take place in the Children's Activity Room on:

- Tuesdays (June 29; July 6, 13, and 27), from 6–7 p.m.
- Thursdays (July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29), from 10–11 a.m.

Movie Matinees for Teens

Teens going into grades 7 through 12 are welcome to join us in the Program Room this summer for three movie matinees. Snacks will be provided.

- Wednesdays (June 23; July 7 and 21), from 2–5 p.m.

Recycled Art Contest for Teens

Found objects, recycled materials, and a little imagination can equal amazing art. Cultivate your creativity this summer and enter the Newburyport Public Library's *Recycled Art Contest for Teens*. If you will be entering grades 7-12 next fall, drop off your submission at the Information Desk from Monday, July 12, through Friday, August 13 at 5 p.m. For more information: Andrea Bunker at the Information Desk or call (978) 465-4428, extension 226.

Green with Envy: Library Mystery Night for Teens

Wrap up summer reading with a bang... *literally!* Teens in grades 7 through 12 are invited to join us after hours on Friday, August 20, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., when we will discover the motive, method, and mastermind behind this mystery. Snacks will be provided. You must preregister and obtain an admission ticket at the Information Desk.

Summer Programs for Adults

Noontime Meditation with Federica

Need a break during the day? Spend a stress-free hour during lunchtime at this meditation program in the NPL Program Room.

- Tuesdays (June 1, 8, and 15) from 12:10–1 p.m.

Scrabble, Mah Jong, and Board Game Club

Everyone is welcome to join us in the Program Room to play Scrabble, Mah Jong, and board games. Light refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!

- Tuesdays (June 1, 8, and 15) from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Building and Bottling Ships

Join us for a free presentation of techniques with Alex Bellinger. This program is open to all, and we will also discuss the possibility of starting free NPL classes on building your own ship in a bottle (based on interest). In the Program Room.

- Tuesday, June 22, from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

The Book Club @ NPL

This July we will discuss Kathleen Kent's novel *The Heretic's Daughter*. All are welcome, and light refreshments will be served. In the Children's Activity Room.

- Thursday, July 15, from 7:00–8:30 p.m.

NPL Film Club

Which Way Home will be shown at 6:00 p.m., followed by discussion at 7:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for either or both parts. Program Room.

- Thursday, June 17, 6:00–8:30 p.m.

And, if you like films, check the online events calendar (<http://www.newburyportpl.org/events/06-2010>) for details of our weekly summer movies.



June = Membership Month

Once again, it is time for all Friends of the Library to renew their memberships. This year, it is more important than ever if we are to continue to support the Newburyport Public Library at the level we traditionally do. Every penny of Friends funding comes from our supporters in the form of contributions, purchases at book sales, and dues.

This year we ask not only that you renew your own membership, but that you recommend to friends and relatives that they join, too. As you know, it is very simple to do—just fill out the form (opposite) and, next time you visit the NPL, drop it off at the Circulation Desk along with your payment. If you prefer, drop the form and check in the mail instead.

Don't forget—Friends dues are fully tax deductible as a charitable contribution!

Area Authors: J. P. Marquand

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city's social patterns in the *Yankee City* series, their 1941 sociological study.

Marquand wrote most of these novels at his estate on Kent's Island in the Newbury marsh, where he lived at least part of every year starting in 1935. After, in effect, returning to his "hometown," he began to establish connections in Newburyport society that had eluded him in his youth. He joined the Dalton Club, Unitarian Church, Friends of the Library, and Tuesday Night Club. In his commencement address to the 1944 Newburyport High School class, he observed: "We have been offered something of the best this country can give us by simply having been allowed to live in a town like Newburyport. . . . The time I have spent here has been more valuable to me than any other experience" (*Daily News*, July 18, 1960). Sixteen years later, he gave another graduation speech at the school, which he followed by hosting at Kent's Island a fiftieth-reunion banquet for his class of 1910. A few weeks later, at the age of 66, he died there in his sleep.

Note: All of the books by Marquand mentioned in this column—including many Mr. Moto mysteries—are available at the NPL.

Friends of the Newburyport Public Library

Membership Form

Good through June 30, 2011

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.

Mail this form with check to:

Friends of the Library

Newburyport Public Library

94 State Street

Newburyport, MA 01950

(or drop off at the NPL Circulation Desk)

Thank You

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June 2010

Spring–Summer Hours

Main Library

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (*through June 26*);

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (*July 3 until August 28*)

Sunday, closed

Emma L. Andrews Branch

Temporarily closed

Newburyport Archival Center

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., and

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Call ahead for availability on Wednesday from

5:00–8:00 p.m.

Newburyport Public Library

(978) 465-4428 (tel.)

<http://www.newburyportpl.org>