

Friends of the Metuchen Library

480 Middlesex Avenue Metuchen NJ 08840-1457 732-632-8526

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

September-October 2011

Volume 21, Issue 2

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend a cordial invitation to all our members and the general public, to attend the annual meeting of the Friends of the Metuchen Library on Tuesday, October 18th at 7pm. You will have a chance to meet and greet the Trustees, learn more about what the Friends are doing, and offer us welcome suggestions.

The meeting will start with a brief business segment including our Treasurer's report, and the election of Officers and Trustees for 2012.

This will be followed by our guest lecturer: Walter Stochel, Jr., of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society whose topic will be *More Secrets of the Grimstead Room*.

Located in the basement of our Library, the Grimstead Room, houses a wide collection including 400 year-old books, 1,000 year-old Native American artifacts, as well as, many interesting objects and photographs. Mr. Stochel has been involved in the cataloging and preservation of the collection for the last 20 years. In addition to giving us an overview of the collection, he will have a number of objects on display for viewing. It is sure to be an interesting and informative talk that will shed light on the history of this borough we call home.

Mr. Stochel's talk is sponsored by the Sally Slobodian Brainy Borough Lecture Fund.

Following our speaker we will serve refreshments provided by our volunteers and you will have the opportunity to circulate and converse.

We sincerely hope you can join us!

~ Anthony Arlotto



Annual Booksale Oct 1, 2011 9AM

You won't want to miss this, so mark your calendars for our Annual Booksale, October 1 (the same day as the Town Country Fair) on the lawn of the Metuchen Public Library. Shopping starts at 9am so hurry in to get the best selection. We have a strong assortment of children's books, cookbooks and movies on DVD and VHS. There will be bargains galore with hardcovers only \$1 each and paperbacks for 50¢ each. The quality of the donated books was exceptional this year, and most are clean and crisp. Don't forget to visit our Unique Selections to find the best, oldest, smallest and the strangest! What a perfect opportunity to take a chance on a new author, read a classic, or pick up a few Holiday gifts!

The Friends appreciate the kind assistance of Lewis Levy of A Quick Print, for once again providing the outdoor sign announcing the sale. Friends like Mr. Levy keep our organization strong.

~ Sondra Flite

Putting Your Donations to Work

The Friends of the Metuchen Library have reached a wonderful milestone in their financial support of this Library. Since 1985, the Friends have given \$295,424.52 in unrestricted cash gifts to the Library to help supplement the municipal budget.

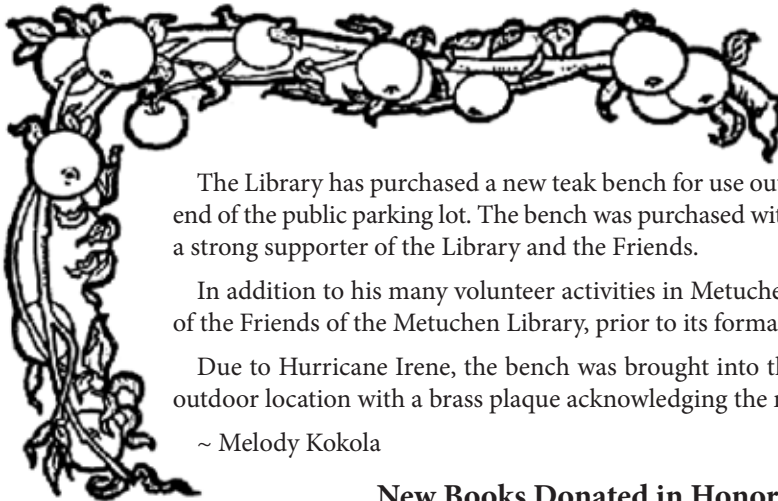
While your tax dollars fund the basic services and maintenance of the building, the Friends provide the extras—quality programs for the entire community.

Have you attended one of our international films, a jazz concert, or a lecture in the Community Room? Did you “go back to yesterday” and enjoy the *War of the Worlds* or *The Abominable Snowman* radio plays? Did you learn about Malta or big league baseball activities here in Metuchen? These films, concerts, lectures, and theatrical presentations were funded by the Friends.

Did your son or daughter learn how to bake bread, or ice cupcakes this summer? Did they learn how to take better photographs and preserve a bit of our local history? Did they become a certified babysitter and earn a bit of spending money? Did they attend art classes here? Did they Meet the Authors of graphic novels—that genre that looks like an old-fashioned comic book? These too were funded by the Friends. Did your little ones enjoy the magician, science program, and storyteller? Did they enjoy participating in the Summer Reading Club by reading themselves or having a story read to them? Did they practice reading aloud to their teenaged buddy? Did they record their activities in reading logs and select prizes as they reached certain levels? The programs, prizes, books and gift certificates were all provided by the Friends.

Please join us at the Annual Friends Meeting on Oct 18th, so I may personally thank each and every one of you!

~ Melody Kokola



Wasser Memorial Bench

The Library has purchased a new teak bench for use outdoors, near the hosta garden at the southern end of the public parking lot. The bench was purchased with special gifts in memory of George Wasser, a strong supporter of the Library and the Friends.

In addition to his many volunteer activities in Metuchen, George also served as the first President of the Friends of the Metuchen Library, prior to its formal incorporation as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Due to Hurricane Irene, the bench was brought into the lobby, but will shortly be returned to its outdoor location with a brass plaque acknowledging the memorial.

~ Melody Kokola

New Books Donated in Honor of Dianna Main

Thanks to the many generous gifts in memory of the late Dianna Main of North Edison, the Friends donated \$500 to the Library which was used to purchase of 19 award-winning hardcovers and 6 books on CD for the Children’s Room. Dianna Main was an avid reader and spent a lot of time at the Metuchen Library. Her family, including her daughter, Deborah De Santis of Metuchen, requested that gifts in her memory be made to the Friends of the Metuchen Library.

~ Alisa Schleif



The Friends are on Facebook! Like us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-Metuchen-Library/150743441629393> or just go to Facebook and type in Friends of the Metuchen Library at the top where it says: Search

When you're on our page, you will see we promote the library's programs and events, as well as, share bits of this and that about music, art, poetry, and more. Don't forget to click on "like" to show your support.

Tweet Tweet!

It's a bird, it's a plane, no it's the Friends on twitter! Follow us @MetuchLibFrend on twitter where we'll be tweeting event notices and updates.

The Friends Epitomize Volunteerism and Community Service

On our Facebook profile, you'll see the "products" of the Friends of the Metuchen Library are volunteerism and community service. Here are just a few of the ways we help:

- Sponsor Library programs for adults and children, including the juvenile reading program and the adult foreign film series.
- Deliver books to the homebound in Metuchen.
- Help with the creation of the teen space in the library.
- Collect and sell donated books. The proceeds are returned to the library in an annual donation.
- Assist with gardening of the library grounds.
- Replace the photocopier at the library.
- Donate the funds to purchase two laptops for the children's room this year.

Because of members like you, the Friends can continue to support the Metuchen Library. These are challenging fiscal times for everyone and the Library needs your support now more than ever. So, invite your friends, neighbors and family members to join the Friends.

The Friends of the Metuchen Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible. Our support of the Library can grow with your help recruiting new members. Encourage your friends to be part of this organization that benefits the beloved Library which plays such a vital role to life in Metuchen.

~ Mary Kearns-Kaplan



Library Photocopier Replaced

The Friends recently donated the refurbished Canon photocopier installed at the Metuchen Library. The copier has an automatic document feeder which makes it easier to create duplicates of multiple-page documents and double-sided originals. Best of all—the cost of a copy is still only 15 cents!

Mark Your Calendar - Friends Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00pm

4 **THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU**

A huge THANK YOU to the following Members who donated over and above their annual membership dues! Such generosity is greatly appreciated and directly impacts the Friends' yearly donation to our Library.

Rajeev Aggarwal - Anna Amorino - Anthony Arlotto - Lorraine Bachman - Susan Bernstein
Jennene Bertucci - Dr Judith A Bland - Donna R Bowen - Bill & Bernice Bransfield
Elizabeth West & Henry Chang - Edward Chang - Carol Christiansen - Frances & Wally Christine
Steve & Muffy Chrysler - Barb & Carmen Collins - Marilyn Court - Barbara Curry
Joan Davidson - Joanne Devereaux - Miriam Dingle - James F Dougherty
Jean Bray & Robery Duffell - John Eber - Joan E Ellen - Evelyn B Finck - Robert Flaherty, Sr
Mary Ann Fraser - Daniel & Cynthia Gladis - Kathryn Glaser - Devra L Golbe
Daniel & Marilyn Greenberg - Harriet Greenspan - Gloria Guida - Doris Gulotta
Grace Hammesfahr - Dorothy Hansen - Fred & Mary Hopke - Robert Hyde
Jack & Helen Iskowitz - Melissa Jacobs Israel - Mr & Mrs Martin Jessen - Nancy Jones
Jessica L Kaimo - Anastasia Kangos - Mary Kearns-Kaplan - Martha & James Keller - Sang Kim
Sally D Kinyon - Louis Kuhn - Daniel Lebar - David & Kathy Liss - William P Malloy
Suzanne Manley - Henry & Yvonne Maskin - Spencer McLane - Audrey Miller - Trudy Morris
Sandra Moss - Rena Mullin - Liz Murray - Audray C Noyes - Dorothy Obropta - Patricia Painter
Jane R Palmeter - L Paone - Carl Pedersen - Grace C Phillips - Gene & Liz Reilly - Anna Rice
Ada Ruesch - Alisa & Jonathan Schleif - Grace Shackney - Stan & Gail Slobodien
Ben & Marci Small - James & Ellen Smelas - Eleanor Smink - Eric & Janet Suss - Sylvia Taylor
Peter & Cathy Tomolonis - Vincent & Cindy Tong - Nancy Torok - Evelyn & Karl Wahl
Laura Walshin - Nikki Walter - Theresa Ward - Ann Watts - Donald & Joyce Wernik - John Wiley
Melissa Lauer & Denise Williams - Naomi Yeager - Margaret M Zullinger

**We are grateful to the following members who, together with their employers,
gave matching gifts to the Friends:**

Susan Bernstein - Judith Bland - Edward Chang - Jessica Kaimo
Harry Maskin - Alisa Schleif - Eric Suss - Nancy Torok
Prudential - JP Morgan Chase - Morgan Stanley - Merck & Co - Colgate Palmolive - Bank of NY
Mellon

*If there are any omissions or errors, please contact Bernice Bransfield 732-494-7008



I've been asked to introduce myself, I'm MaryChris Bradley, the new Editor of the Friends Newsletter. Personally, I think they just want me to tell you this so you know who to blame for any misspelled names, typos, or other mistakes! "Write something about yourself!" they said. Don't you hate writing about yourself? Well, I do too, so I asked a disinterested party (my spouse) to interview me for this article. NOTE: I am not responsible for his side comments.

Him: So, why the Friends of the Metuchen Library Newsletter? (Don't you already have enough to do as Publisher of *Buddhapuss Ink* and running a consulting business?)

Me: Well, I've always been in love with libraries. You might have noticed over the years that I've tried to turn our home into one. My father taught me to read when I was 3. Every evening I'd sit in his lap and we'd read the newspaper together. Once I was reading, my big sister (she doesn't like me to call her my OLDER sister) would take me with her to the Public Library and I couldn't wait to get my OWN library card.

You had to be able to print your name to get a children's card, so my sister, who is also a very patient person, worked with me for a week. When I finally mastered it, we took the bus to the library.

It seemed like there were a million steps to climb just to get to the door. The Librarian's desk was up on a platform and when she stood up there she seemed exceptionally tall to me, but I was just a little kid at the time. She leaned w-a-y down to hand me an index card and a pencil. My sister filled in our address and telephone number and then, under the Librarian's watchful eye I printed my name as carefully as I could. It was a little messy, and a few of the letters trailed off towards the bottom of the card, but the Librarian just smiled. Soon I was holding my very own Library card in my hand. I thought I'd been given the keys to the kingdom!

Him: (Stifling a yawn) I suppose you remember the first books you took out?

Me: Of course; Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, Millions of Cats, and my favorite, Make Way for Ducklings. I loved Mrs. Mallard and Jack, Kack, Lack and Mack!

Him: Yeah, yeah, enough with the stroll down memory lane. They probably want to know what you bring to the job, if anyone is still reading this that is.

Me: Well, my love of reading, and over the course of my career, I have held every position from bookstore clerk, to Director of Sales, Marketing, Editorial and Design, to Publisher at large and small publishing houses. Along the way I got the chance to sit on both sides of the buying desk at chain and university bookstores. Throw in some time teaching retail display, writing, and management seminars just for full measure and... Well, that's it really.

Him: Great, I can still catch the baseball game, The Tigers are playing the...

NOTE: There were a few questions I refused to answer as part of this interview. They were: When's dinner? Have you seen my car keys? and Does this shirt go with these pants? For all those curious people out there, the answers were: Soon, no, and absolutely not!



We'd Also Like to Mention:

- Ellen Smelas, was the Editor of this Newsletter for fifteen years. Corinna Crofton and Kathryn Glaser also sat in the Editor's chair. Thank you all!
- Elizabeth Becker, recipient of a Friends' \$100 Scholarships, who sent the Friends a lovely Thank You note. Thanks Elizabeth, we hope you have a great year in college!

Over 20,000 Hours and Counting!

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of the Metuchen Library for supporting our summer reading club. The theme this year was **One World, Many Stories**. Our menu of programs included storytimes for 18 months to 5 year-olds, book review clubs for Kindergarten through 5th grade, storytime at the Metuchen Pool, and craft programs.

In June, together with the YA group, we hosted author Wendy Mass. We used one of her books, *11 Birthdays*, for our One and Done Book Buzz reading group, while the YA group used one of her other books.

Wacky Wednesday programs featured Duet Productions, Piccirillo Sciencetelling and storyteller Jim Rohe. Evening programs included Mark the Magician, and Explore India-Peacock Surprise.

To date, the 195 children and 60 of their special adults in our reading groups have logged over 20,000 hours of reading time and this total is still rising! Prizes were awarded at three levels; 5 hours of reading earned a grab bag gift (pencils, tattoos, bubbles, etc.), at 10 hours children could choose a paperback book, and a media pouch was awarded for reaching the summer goal of 15 hours. Children who read over 15 hours received a raffle ticket for each additional five hours of reading recorded.

Our popular summer games also returned. We played Word of the Week, Reference Desk, and Quest. Children under age 5 had their own game booklet this year. Game players earned Chamber of Commerce gift certificates, Barnes and Noble Gift cards, reference books, and reading journals. The youngest players received Maisy books.

Thanks again for making our Summer Reading Club a success!

~ June Young / Glynis Brookens

Summer Had “Mass” Appeal

Metuchen’s teens and pre-teens had another fabulous summer, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library! We kicked off the season with a Visit from the Author, Wendy Mass. Throughout July and August, a variety of free programs were offered to students in grades 6-12, including a babysitter certification class, a robotics workshop, a class on the medieval art of illumination, a cupcake decorating class, and a pasta and pesto making class. In addition there was a three-session Writers Workshop and an Open Mic Night for young writers, poets and musicians.

The Library also hosted two book clubs, and the Friends provided free books for the participants. Again this summer, we offered a number of pre-college programs for high school students, including Resume Writing, a College Interview Workshop, and the very popular three-part College Essay Workshop. Teens also got an opportunity to earn community service credit by joining Book Friends, where 8th -12th graders shared one morning a week with 1st and 2nd graders, reading books and working on related projects. A big thank you to the Friends for sponsoring another summer packed with recreational and educational events for the kids!

~ Kathy Liss



Fall Calendar of Events



Sunday, Sept. 18: **Victor Guarnera**, 9/11 Memorial Program, 2:00pm

Saturday, Oct. 1: **Annual Book Sale**, Library Lawn, 9:00am

Monday, Oct. 3: **Edna Newby International Film Festival**, *Potiche*
(French, 2010) 2:00 & 7:30pm

Friday, Oct. 14: **Skip Ungar**, *History of the Hollywood Musical II*, 2:00pm

Sunday, Oct. 16: **Jim Cuthbert**, *American Songbook*, 2:00pm

Tuesday, Oct. 18: **Annual Friends of the Metuchen Library Meeting**, Guest Lecturer Walter Stochel, Jr
More Secrets of the Grimstead Room, 7:00pm

Friday, Oct. 28: **Philip Messina**, *China, the Inscrutable*, 2:00pm

Sunday, Oct. 30, **Peter Biedermann**, *Music for Jazz Guitar*, 2:00pm

Sunday, Nov. 6, **Karen Luschar**, *Songs of Broadway*, 2:00pm

Monday, Nov. 7: **Edna Newby International Film Festival**, *Swimsuit Issue*
(Swedish, 2008) 2:00 & 7:30pm

Friday, Nov. 18: **Philip Messina**, *Island Hopping: Athens to Istanbul*, 2:00pm

Sunday, Nov. 20: **Meet the Authors**, Local Author Signing, 2:00pm

Monday, Dec. 5: **Edna Newby International Film Festival**, *Bride Flight*
(Netherlands, 2008) 2:00 & 7:30pm

Tuesday, Dec. 6: **Fall Trip to Metropolitan Museum**, NYC, 8:15am

*International films and concerts are co-sponsored by the Metuchen Public Library
Board of Trustees Endowment Fund and the Friends of the Metuchen Library

Being Candid About the Camera

You might have spotted an enthusiastic group of teens this summer taking photographs around Metuchen. The results of their efforts can be viewed in a wonderful Powerpoint slide show on the flat screen television in the new teen area of the Library. (If the screen is black, ask at the desk.)

Participants will be creating new slide shows throughout the school year, so check the teen section often for more from these young photojournalists!

This summer program and the technology in the teen section were generously provided by the Friends. Kathryn Glaser, Cathy Tarnowsky and Helen Baxter also provided their support for the program.

~ Kathryn Glaser



Winter Hours Have Begun!

Monday-Thursday 10AM - 9PM

Friday-Saturday 10AM - 5PM

Sunday 1PM - 5PM



ABBREVIATED HOURS: Election Day (November 8)

Veteran's Day (November 11) 10AM - 5PM

Emergency closings will be announced on Metuchen's website www.metuchennj.org, METV, and WCTC-AM (1450) radio.

When in doubt, check it out: Call us at 732-632-8526

Officers for 2011-2012

President	Anthony Arlotto
Vice-President	Bernice Bransfield
Treasurer	Alisa Schleif
Recording Secretary	Kathryn Glaser
Corresponding Secretary	Rosemarie Schwarzman

Trustees:

Karen Alexander • Sondra Flite • Mary Kearns-Kaplan • Dorothy Obropta

Consultants:

Helen Baxter • MaryChris Bradley • Joanne Devereaux • Evelyn Finck • Melissa Jacobs Israel • Ada Ruesch
Grace Shackney • Barbara Smith • Cathy Tardowsky • Evelyn & Karl Wahl • Dominic Walker

Fall Book Discussion Group

The Metuchen Book Discussion group has selected the reading list for 2011-2012. Join your neighbors on the second Tuesday of the month, from September through June, in the Community Room at 7:30 pm for interesting, lively discussions. Please note the exceptions below.

This year's reading list includes:

- Oct. 11 *Friendly Fire*, by A. B. Yehoshua
- Nov. 10 (a Thursday) *The Perfect Store-Inside eBay*, by Adam Cohen
- Dec. 13 *When Nietzsche Wept*, by Irvin D. Yalom
- Jan. 10 *Cutting For Stone*, by Abraham Vergese
- Feb. 14 No Meeting
- Mar. 13 *Cleopatra*, by Stacy Schiff
- Apr. 10 *In the Garden of the Beasts*, Erik Larson
- May 8 *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot
- June 12 *The Tiger's Wife*, by Tea Obreht



December 6, 2011

Metropolitan Museum Trip

The Friends of the Metuchen Library's late Fall trip will be to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City on Tuesday, December 6, 2011. In addition to the museum's enormous permanent collection there are several special exhibits, including the following:

Annual Christmas Tree & Baroque Crèche

After the Gold Rush: Contemporary Photographs from the Collection.
Works made since 1979 that address the culture at large.

Historic Images of the Greek Bronze Age: The Reproductions of E. Gillieron & Son

"Wonder of the Age" Master Painters of India, 1100-1900

American Landscapes Nine large superb American landscape paintings .
On view in the newly renovated Robert Lehman Wing

New Galleries for the Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia
& Later South Asia (opens Nov. 1, 2011)

The bus will leave Library Place in Metuchen at 8:15 AM and will leave the museum at 3 PM. Street parking is available on Library Place.

The trip costs \$35 which includes transportation, a gratuity for the driver, and the museum entry fee. There are no discounts for members of the Museum.

Checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Library and presented at the main desk of the Metuchen Library. In accordance with our policy, there will be no refunds for those who cancel. Those who do are encouraged to sell their tickets to those on the waiting list. Any questions, please call the Metuchen Library 732-632-8526

Lunch may be purchased at the Museum's cafeteria or cafes.