



# FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

April 2012 to June 2012

SPRING NEWSLETTER

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**JOSEPH TWAROG**  
*Forbes Library Board of Trustees*  
*Newly-elected Member*

Joseph Twarog is passionate about libraries. He is the newly elected member of Forbes Library's Board of Trustees, replacing Jesse Adams, who resigned last year. Using libraries in places where he works, in places where he lives, and in places he visits, Joe speaks animatedly about the features he admires in the best of them and what he sees as possibilities for Forbes. A town's library is a magnet for community, he says, and a measure of civilization. As a trustee he hopes to encourage and build on the role Forbes plays in our community as a vibrant gathering place for all residents. Joe is especially concerned with the resources Forbes can provide for young people — tweens and high school students — as a desirable, inviting place for meetings and activities as well as study and research. The library's recently promulgated Strategic Plan also addresses these age groups and the library's plans to increase programming for them.

see TWAROG, page 4

## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

### *Answering the Question: Who Needs Libraries?*

Friday January 27th was a dreary rainy day, but those who brandished an umbrella and came out to the Legislative Breakfast were rewarded for their efforts. Coming through the front doors of Forbes, the attendees were greeted by a horseshoe of tables like enveloping arms that presented homemade muffins and mini-scones, coffee from Northampton Coffee of Pleasant Street, fruit and juices and teas, bagels and jams.

The welcome only started with the palpable (dare we say, yummy?) hospitality, presented by the Friends of Forbes Library. After fixing up plates of goodies and steaming cups, patrons adjourned to the reading room to hear the speakers.

Speakers and audience alike were drawn to this event by a love of, and commitment to, public libraries. The Legislative Breakfast gives voice to the question and its

see LEGISLATIVE, page 4



*During April's Snapshot Day, we captured a day in the life at Forbes. Seen here, a mother reads to her child and a friend.*

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## News From The Friends

**F**riends of Forbes bid farewell to two longtime board members, Kari Knapp and Christine Nolan. Each served on the board for twelve years and will depart after the April annual meeting. In honor of their service the two will receive this year's Trustees' Award, scheduled for May 19th in the Coolidge Museum.

**R**ecent elections at the Friends Annual Meeting resulted in the following: Martha McCormick, President; Serena Smith, Vice President; Mikki Michon, Secretary; and Tim Umbach, Treasurer.

**I**t is always a surprise when people mention that they do not know anything about the Friends of Forbes organization. We are 400 plus strong and we support the library with money raised from memberships, donations, and fund raisers. Our money provides assistance with materials, programs, professional development for staff, and more. We need your financial support... and/or your time if you are willing to serve on the board. To find out more about us, click on the Friends of Forbes link at [forbeslibrary.org](http://forbeslibrary.org). or... come to a meeting on the first Wed. of each month, 6:30pm in the Community Room.

**E**veryone who attended the Legislative Breakfast on a cold and rainy late January morning enjoyed excellent coffee donated by NORTHAMPTON COFFEE, and delicious food supplied by the Friends of Forbes -with a little help from SYLVESTERS - and heavenly background piano music provided by volunteer and local musician/realtor Buddy Clark. With some eye opening news and discussion about libraries from local politicians, the 80 plus library lovers who attended left more informed and more charged up to fight for our libraries.

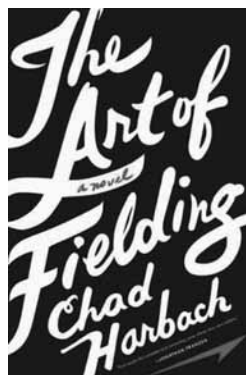
**N**ow is the time to mark your calendars for the Friends of Forbes Garden Tour, to be held on June 9th, 2012. Another dazzling display of local gardens is in the planning stages. This is a major fundraiser for the Friends. Please join us.

**D**espite our best efforts to complete all necessary steps to achieve incorporation status for the Friends in time for a spring wine tasting fundraiser, alas ...we are still awaiting approval of the last step. And so, in order to avert nail biting and a great deal of angst, we have made a decision to cancel and reschedule for a fall event. Please stay tuned.

**S**till marveling over the creative Edible Book event sponsored by the Friends of Forbes last April, we are wondering who has a great idea this year for presenting a book in a totally edible way? The 2012 event, to be held on Sunday, April 22, will be located at the Florence Civic Center, and hosted by the Friends of Lilly Library. Come join the fun, and help raise a little money for the Friends.

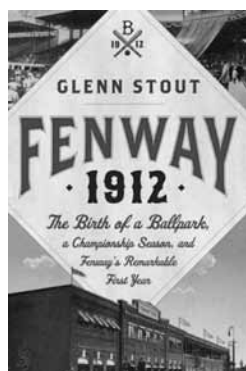
*Christine Nolan, President of the Friends of Forbes*

## SPRING FEVER



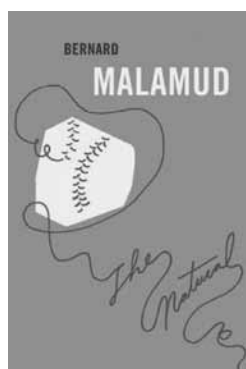
### **The Art of Fielding** by Chad Harbach

*“At Westish College, a small school on the shore of Lake Michigan, baseball star Henry Skrimshander seems destined for big-league stardom. But when a routine throw goes disastrously off course, the fates of five people are upended.”*—from publisher’s description. (Northampton Forbes New Book — YF 2011)



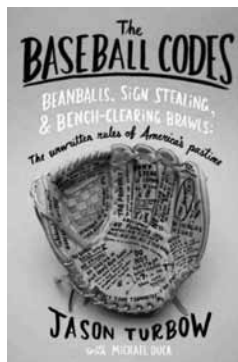
### **Fenway 1912** by Glenn Stout

*“A centennial tribute to the beloved ballpark shares the behind-the-scenes story of its tumultuous origins and first year, sharing coverage of such topics as the unorthodox blueprint that belies the park’s notorious quirks, the construction contributions of local citizens and the history-making World Series battle between the Red Sox and the Giants.”*—from publisher’s description. (Northampton Forbes A&M New — VKB3Z.St76f 2011)



### **The Natural** by Bernard Malamud

*“This sports novel follows the career of baseball player Roy Hobbs, a natural with a bat whose dreams of playing in the big leagues are deferred by a youthful indiscretion, but who finally becomes a hero.”*—from NoveList. (Northampton Forbes Stacks — YF)



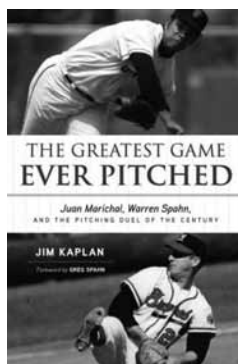
### **The Baseball Codes** by Jason Turbow with Michael Duca

*“A behind-the-scenes analysis of professional baseball’s hidden rules reveals the impact of unwritten codes of conduct, retaliatory behaviors and cheating, providing dramatic examples as committed by such figures as Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays and Don Drysdale.”*—from publisher’s description. (Northampton Forbes A&M New — VKB.D854b 2010)



### **Blockade Billy** by Stephen King

*“A retired coach recounts the story of “Blockade Billy” Blakely, known for his skills as a catcher and also as a formidable batter, the only player to have his record erased from baseball history, and his time with the New Jersey Titans.”*—from publisher’s description. (Northampton Forbes Stacks — YF)



### **The Greatest Game Ever Pitched** by Jim Kaplan

*“[This book] intertwines the personal histories of baseball Hall of Famers Juan Marichal and Warren Spahn with the events of their sixteen-inning pitching duel at San Francisco’s Candlestick Park in the summer of 1963.”*—from publisher’s description. (Northampton Forbes A&M New — VKB.K141g 2011)

*Get suggestions on a variety of topics and for many different reading interests at the library. Library staff are always happy to help you find your next great read.*

*Call 587-1012 or stop by the Reference Desk for more information.*

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from TWAROG, page 1

A native of Holyoke, Joe has lived in Northampton for the past 21 years. He and his wife have 3 daughters, the youngest of whom is a senior at Northampton High School. He works as an educator for the Massachusetts Nurses Association, which necessitates a great deal of travel for him, teaching members about labor law, negotiating contracts, and so forth. He also teaches several weeks during the year at the National Labor College in Maryland and has taught at the Labor Center at the University of Massachusetts.

Non-fiction is Joe's favorite for reading. With an academic background in East Asian studies, he likes to read Chinese history, but he says American history, biography, and history of all kinds interest him as well. He reports that after only his first meeting with the library's trustees, he was impressed by the seriousness with which the board takes its responsibilities. With his enthusiasm and energy, he appears to be a perfect fit for that group and for Forbes. Welcome, Trustee Twarog!

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from LEGISLATIVE, page 1

answer: "Who needs libraries? We all do!" That appeared on the cover of the Legislative Agenda, part of the packet given to attendees.

The purpose of the morning is to offer a forum to highlight the value of our public libraries in Western Massachusetts and look at the issues affecting them today. It's been six years since the Forbes hosted the event.

Forbes Library Director, Janet Moulding opened the program and introduced the speakers. Other opening remarks came from vice-president of the Board of Trustees, Peter Rowe, and Mayor David Narkewicz.

We were reminded that these library resources have been and are hard-won. John Scibak of the second Hampshire District spoke passionately about how in a time of budget cuts to the libraries and library system, he encouraged all of us to be proud that we have stood up for the needs of libraries in Western Massachusetts and for making those needs known.

Some stories the speakers told were very personal. Bill Dwight, President of the Northampton City Council regaled and amused the attendees with the story of Pleasant Street Video, and how the library came to add the store's inventory to its own collection.

Susan Stinson, Writer-in-Residence at Forbes told a story of her experience as a literacy tutor, bringing her student to the library amazed at the resources available to one and all.

These resources were highlighted by other speakers who noted that libraries were more than just books. Libraries serve communities as a space for learning, lectures, art, as well as access to technology, and a much-needed resource for job seekers in a time of economic downturn.

Some of those libraries may be in small communities that are too small to provide services on their own. Those communities have a friend in another speaker, Bonnie Isman, from the Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA). She spoke of the unique needs of Western Massachusetts with so many communities in need of the library services.

The WMLA advocates support for the legislative agenda of supporting the funding of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).

The MBLC uses state and federal funding to supply library services such as interlibrary loan services, programs, books, DVDs and E-books, services for the blind, internet services, databases and electronic resources that can be used for research.

Other speakers who addressed the concerns of Western Massachusetts libraries included Greg Pronevitz, of the Mass Library System; Sharon Sharry of C/WMARS, Central/ Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing.

Other invited guests and speakers included Representatives Ellen Story, Stephen Kulik, Peter Kocot, and Paul Mark. Senator Stanley Rosenberg was unable to attend, but sent his aide Tom Mitchell to be part of the event.