



FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

June 2012 to August 2012

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2



MARTHA McCORMICK

Friends of Forbes Library's New President

The Friends of Forbes new president, Martha McCormick, knew she wanted to be an art teacher from the time she was nine years old. As a child she was always drawing and making things, and in the fourth grade at the Williams Street School in Northampton, eagerly awaiting the visit of the art teacher each week, she decided on her future occupation. At about the same time, she and her best friend began walking together every Saturday from their Ward 3 neighborhood to Forbes Library to take out a stack of books.

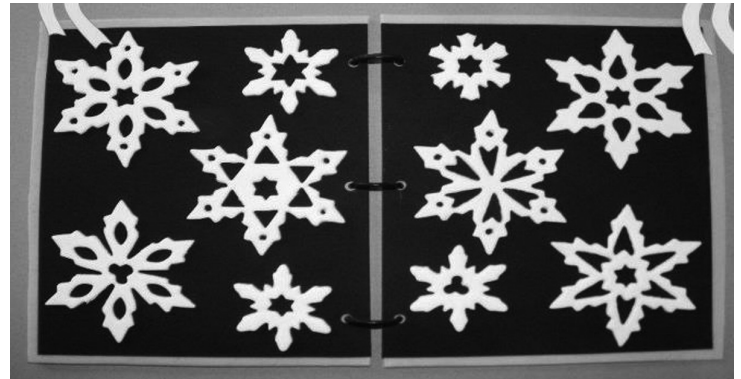
A Northampton native, Martha grew up in the house her father grew up in near the Meadows. She graduated from Northampton High School and earned a BFA in art education from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst before eventually securing a job teaching art at her old high school. She taught art in Northampton schools for 34 years, having just retired in December of 2011. She joined the board of the Friends of Forbes in 2006 and has put her talent in art to wonderful use

see McCORMICK, page 6

CALLING ALL DREAMERS! *Children's Summer Reading Adventure*

This year's children's Summer Reading Adventure, DREAM BIG! READ!!! will begin on July 9th and continue through August 6th. Participants may register at any time during the program. We welcome kids ages 3-13 to join us celebrating our theme with night related stories, great reads, fun programming, amazing shows, arts and craft projects and our famous

see DREAMERS, page 4



Snowflake Bentley, created by Scott McDaniel

2012 EDIBLE BOOK EVENT *Record-breaking Entries!*

The Friends of Forbes 2012 Edible Book Event on April 22nd was a tremendous success, with a record-shattering 31 entries. It was the sixth annual joint fundraising effort with the Friends of Lilly Library, in which people make representations of books out of edible ingredients.

This year's festivities at the Florence Civic Center coincided with Earth Day and ecologically-themed entries included a *World Atlas* globe carved out a watermelon, and a *Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook* with chocolate earth garden beds surrounded by shredded wheat 'hay.'

see EDIBLE BOOKS, page 6

FRIENDS' ANNUAL MEETING

Each April, the Friends of Forbes holds its annual meeting open to its membership as well as the general public to report on the Friends' previous year's activities and the plans for the coming year as well as to elect officers. This year, the meeting included recognition of the contributions of two departing Friends of Forbes members, Chris Nolan and Kari Knapp both of whom have served for twelve years on the board including as President. In addition to the business of the meeting, a reception followed with refreshments provided by the Friends of Forbes.

The centerpiece of the meeting is a presentation. This year's speaker was Laurie Sanders, drawing a large crowd for her talk entitled "The Human and Natural History of the Meadows". Ms. Sanders did some of her research on the Meadow at the Forbes Library.

Starting in 1999, Ms. Sanders' features have been heard on WFCR, called "Field Notes", including subjects such as eight pieces she recorded about the health of Long Island Sound. She has also appeared on WGBH in "A Natural Focus" and produced in all, more than thirty natural history episodes for public television.

A Smith College graduate of the class of '88, she secured a small grant to research The Meadows. In the 90s, she wondered about effects of settlers on this area, why they chose it and the effects of transportation. In the late 1950s, plans were made for the construction of what is now Route 91. What other evolution of transportation affected the landscape?

It was through works of art that she could find some clues. Her presentation included slides of old maps and of paintings depicting The Meadows at various points in history. The paintings, often painted from a similar vantage point near the Summit House, showed the changes in the flow of the river as well as changes in vegetation and in land use.

She presented a history of The Meadows dating back to the 1600s when trees served as fences between properties and farm parcels. When the Dutch moved to Hartford they found 65 miles of navigable waterway to Enfield, so The Hudson

see ANNUAL MEETING, page 6



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.

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

see TWAROG, page 6



A TYPICAL DAY AT FORBES

In April the library participated in a statewide effort to document what happens on a typical day. On April 18 we recorded usage and took photos. On that day we had 1,211 people come through our doors, we circulated 1,606 items, we had 178 people use library computers to access the internet and had about 50 people come in to attend programs. Forbes Library is proud to be Northampton's public library.

Forbes Library's Mission

Forbes Library exists to provide a wide range of information and materials to all of the people of Northampton, using traditional and innovative technology, and to encourage and support the civic, intellectual, and cultural pursuits of the community. It strives to meet these objectives with continuous sensitivity to the changing needs of the community, and adapts its services to meet these needs. The Library also provides a friendly physical environment which can serve as a community meeting place and in which it encourages curiosity, free inquiry and lifelong learning; and endeavors to make the community aware of its resources and services.

REFERENCE ROOM RENOVATION

Forbes Library is excited to begin renovating the reference room. This project is made possible due to the 2010 bequest of Dilman Doland, a great library supporter who taught psychology at Smith for 30 years. The reference room will be getting new computers, additional seating (20+ new chairs), and new carpeting. The reference room will be closed from May 14-June 18, during the renovation, with reference services and public computers available on the 2nd floor in Arts & Music. Microfilm will be available on the mezzanine. During this time there may be construction noise and other disruptions on the Main Floor, but we will reopen with an improved space for library patrons.

from DREAMERS, page 1

weekly raffle where EVERYONE will have a chance to win super prizes! ALL READERS ARE WINNERS!!!

Our Family Summer Entertainment Series will feature Ricardo Frota with sounds and rhythms from the Brazilian Rainforest, Tuesday July 10th (sponsored by a Grant from the Northampton Arts Council), WINGMASTERS presents the world of owls-facts and folklore about the natural and unnatural history of owls. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17th and will feature LIVE owls.

On Tuesday, July 24th our friends from the Forest Park Zoo will return with two half-hour presentations. This show does require pre-registration. Our last Super Tuesday Event on Tuesday, July 31st will feature a multi-media presentation by Gary Pazzato. You will meet Robo the robot who talks, moves and interacts with the audience. Learn about living in space, orbits, rockets and more.

The Friends of Forbes Library are our sponsors for the last three events. All shows are FREE and begin at 2pm. Ongoing programs for families are Story Time with Ellie Dole on Mondays at 10:30am, Tummy Time on Mondays from 11-12:30, Toddler Time Wednesday's at 11am, Baby Play Group Thursdays from 1-3, Summer Board Game Club, daily 11-4...check out our great selection of games. Our drop in art table is always a fun place to meet your friends and neighbors for a puzzle, coloring or a snack. We hope to see you soon!



Congratulations to 2012 Trustees Award Winners Christine Nolan (center) and Kari Knapp (right), presented by Forbes Library Trustee President Russell Carrier and Director Janet Moulding.

WE'VE GONE EVERGREEN

Over the Memorial Day weekend, all libraries within the CW-MARS consortium switched over to new open-source software called Evergreen. Evergreen is currently being used by many library systems in the south and west. Being open-source software, member libraries may request modifications and enhancements more readily, and therefore in the long term it will be more cost efficient and more robust than our current software.

What this means for the average borrower is that you will notice a change in the way the library catalog looks. You will still be able to search the catalog and access your account using your current library card number although your PIN will be reset to your last name. Do not hesitate to contact a librarian with assistance in using the new system in person, by email to reference@forbeslibrary.org or by phone 413-587-1012.

The library's circulation system is also migrating. We encourage you to bring your library card with you on each visit to ensure we can help you. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience during this migration.

2012 MUST-READ BOOKS
a list from the MA Center for the Book

The Massachusetts Center for the Book has announced the 2012 Must-Read books. These are a selection of their choices for the Must-Read awards. You can read about all of the titles at www.massbook.org.

MUST-READ FICTION

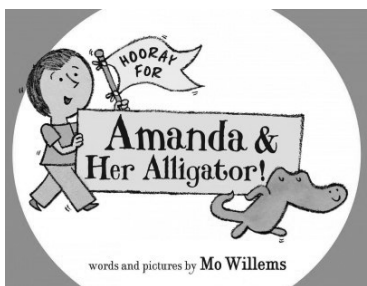
Alice Bliss (Dorman/Penguin) is 15, and her father is being deployed to Iraq. His absence changes everything and everyone. This moving story illustrates the effect of war on one American family and touches the reader on a visceral level. Laura Harrington tells Alice's story powerfully making it equally accessible to adults and young adults.

MUST-READ NONFICTION

Season to Taste (Ecco) is a touchingly told journey of recovery as Molly Birnbaum first loses and then regains her sense of smell just when she is seeking to enter the world of gastronomy inspired in her (and in many others of us) by Julia Child. This is a book for fans of epicureanism and of Oliver Sachs.

MUST-READ POETRY

Exploring everyday objects and incidents with an eye and ear for the fanciful, the fantastic, and the dreamily real, D.M. Gordon's *Nightly, at the Institute of the Possible* (Hedgerow) is testament to the poet's imagination and true command of her craft. These poems demand to be read again and again.



MUST-READ

CHILDREN'S/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator (Balzer & Bray/Harper Collins), by Mo Willems, is a sweet friendship story told in six and a half very short stories which suggest that sometimes in life we have to get used to each other and make room for new friends at the same time.

TEEN & ADULT
SUMMER READING CLUB

July 2 to August 24

No registration is required.

Teens and adults are encouraged to participate.



*Let a book take you somewhere this summer
and join the fun!*

Read and/or listen to three books or more over the course of the program, complete a reading log (available at the Circulation Desk, Reference Desk, Arts & Music desk and online at www.forbeslibrary.org/summer) and write a brief recommendation for one title.

Return your log to the Reference desk anytime during the program to receive a prize. You are then automatically entered in our summer end prize drawing.

Check out summer book displays and reading lists for good reads. Share what you're reading on the library's Facebook page. Call (413) 587-1012 for more information.

Between the Covers is sponsored by Friends of Forbes, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

from EDIBLE BOOKS, page 1

Other entries included an elegant *Snowflake Bentley* with unique fondant icing snowflakes and *Ten Rosy Roses* constructed with pretzel stems and gumdrop blooms and leaves. In addition to cake and icing, ingredients seen in more than one entry were jello, broccoli and pretzels.

This year's judges were Liz Chafin of Zea Mays Printmaking Studio and NPR cookbook reviewer and food commentator T. Susan Chang. They wowed the crowd with amusing and appropriate awards for each entry. The *Gardener's Handbook* was "Most likely to grow if watered." Homer Price's plate of doughnuts received the coveted "Fewest utensils needed" award. The "best original animal" was a stunning *Elegance of the Hedgehog* covered in almond slivers. *War and Peace-A* featured pizza pages with armaments etched in cheese on one side, set opposite peace signs carved from tomatoes. Fittingly, it was awarded the "Best use of tomato."

After the entries were admired, awards announced, and creators talked about the challenges of edible book construction, everyone chowed down on the yummy books. You can see photos of all the entries on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/EdibleBookNorthampton> and television coverage on channel 22 <http://www.wvlp.com/dpp/news/local/hampden/Edible-books-inspire-cooks-and-bakers-at-fundraiser> (or search on some of these words) See <http://www.books2eat.com> for information about the international event. Start thinking now about your entry for next April!

from TWAROG, page 2

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!

from ANNUAL MEETING, page 2

Bay Company now had easy transportation for their fur trade. But there were two miles that were impossible to navigate. And so in the 1700s, locks and canals were proposed to speed transportation.

With the coming of the railroad to the area in 1840, the waterway was no longer the preferred thoroughfare. Another influence in the same era was the building of the Summit House hotel in 1821. The meadows and this valley became the second most popular natural attraction in the United States after Horseshoe / Niagara Falls. The unusual plants and butterflies that could be found in the Holyoke Range, and the Great Blue Heron and Eagle nests made the area a place to visit. In fact, when Mount Holyoke College was founded in 1837, it was so named because of the name recognition of the area.

Some of Ms. Saunders pictures included Rainbow Beach, the largest beach on the Connecticut River. With pollution of the river and changes in its flow, the beach was just part of the erosion of the area that was no longer quite the Paradise that Jenny Lind once pronounced it. But with recent efforts, The Meadows has become a place to find rare habitats of plants that can cope with flooding that occurs most years. It is a place for naturalists like Laurie Sanders and a place of enjoyment for amateurs and enthusiasts just like us.

from McCORMICK, page 1

creating Friends' publicity materials, raffle baskets, and more. Martha and her husband, a Northampton firefighter, live in Florence and have two adult sons. She is particularly fond of sculpture and watercolor and mentions Henry Moore and Charles Burchfield as favorites. She still loves making things, checks out books about different crafts and her newest passion, knitting, but she also likes biography and reads a lot of fiction. Martha attributes her love of reading to her mother, who is still an avid patron of Forbes. Anyone who visited Forbes during the month of April had the pleasure of seeing some of Martha's handiwork in the Friends' two raffle baskets, which were given away on May 3rd, yielding almost \$1000 for the Friends and the library.