



FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

January 2012 to March 2012

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1

PLEASANT STREET VIDEO'S OUTSTANDING DVD COLLECTION *Stays Local and Available at Forbes Library*

Over the past 25 years Pleasant Street Video built an incredible film library in Northampton serving film lovers from all over New England. With its uniquely well-curated collection and knowledgeable staff, it was a popular hangout as well as the source for movies a sophisticated and diverse audience couldn't find in chain video stores, or even the western Mass. library system. PSV outlasted even Blockbuster, but inevitably, the video store fell victim to online competition and closed July 15th, 2011.

When the end was imminent, many customers and fans asked what would become of the collection and expressed hopes of saving it. In June, Dana Gentes, the co-owner of Pleasant see DVDS, page 6



BANJO, BONGOS, DJEMBE, DULICMER, KALMIBA, DRUM, GUITAR *New Musical Instruments Available*

Forbes Library has added to its collection of musical instruments available for loan. Library card holders may borrow a banjo, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, a steel string guitar, bongos, kalmiba, djembe or frame drum. The library's instrument collection dates back to 2008 when it began the popular service of loaning ukuleles.

These musical instruments, from throughout the world, can be checked out at the Arts and Music desk and are available to adult patrons and children in sixth grade or above. Library patrons may borrow an instrument for up to three weeks at a time, providing an excellent opportunity to try out a new instrument. Instructional materials, including chord charts and method books, are also available at the library.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 3RD ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE FORBES LIBRARY. WINE TASTING

FRIDAY MARCH 30
6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
AT FORBES LIBRARY

TICKETS

\$25 PER PERSON
THERE IS A LIMITED NUMBER
OF TICKETS AVAILABLE.
TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED
AT THE LIBRARY,
ON THE LIBRARY'S WEBSITE,
OR AT LIQUORS 44.

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News From The Friends

Friends and Forbes allies Jane Carnes and Lyn Heady created a gorgeous quilt with their quilting guild and donated it to the Friends for a fundraiser. So many people took a chance and then dreamed of taking the quilt home. The raffle raised over \$1500 for our organization and for that we are truly grateful to Jane, Lyn, and the ladies of the guild. The lucky dreamer and winner was Dorien Miller, of Northampton.

Russ Carrier (Trustee) remembers when the Friends organized some thirty two years ago because he was one of the founding members. The group filed papers and became classified as a “charitable association” and that status served them well for years and years. But times change and the Friends are now in the process of becoming incorporated, a step that is better suited for the organization as we move forward. Soon we will be The Friends of Forbes Library, Inc.

It is always a surprise when people mention that they do not know anything about the Friends of Forbes organization. We are 400 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. If you are not a member, please consider joining now and become member #401! You will find membership cards in the library. To find out more about us, click on the Friends of Forbes link at forbeslibrary.org.

Ever think of using the free museum passes available at the circulation desk? Winter is a great time to do some indoor museum visiting. The Friends organization sponsors passes to the Eric Carle Museum, the Mass MOCA, the Norman Rockwell Museum and more. In the past year passes were checked out 676 times and admitted over 2700 individuals to museums.

New to the Friends’ board this year is Mary Fagan. A Connecticut native, Mary moved to Northampton about 7 years ago. She is a career business and technical writer preferring, she says, to use both hemispheres of her brain. Currently she volunteers at the Forbes by organizing and facilitating the JOB SEEKER’S SUPPORT TEAM. The group is open to visitors/members and meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in the Watson Room.

Dee Michel is our second new board member. He moved to Northampton around 2000 and has been a strong Forbes user and supporter ever since. Dee’s volunteer work on the Edible Books project brought the event to a whole new level last spring. He created an archive of all previous Edible Book events and collected them in a notebook that is housed in the Forbes and in Lilly Library as well. Dee has been a library school professor and currently plays show tunes on “A Little Stage Music” on WMUA, 91.1 fm and WMUA.org, Saturdays, 3-5pm.

Since we are on the topic of board members for the Friends, do know that we have vacancies in the spring of each year. If you have a love of the Forbes and some energy to give to a volunteer board, perhaps you’d like to come and check us out. We meet at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Community Room.

Christine Nolan, President of the Friends of Forbes

HOSMER GALLERY
2012 Winter Exhibits



Kate Marion LaPierre, Abstract Painting

JANUARY

Terry Wise, Paintings

Lauren Scott, Paintings

Judson Brown, Photos & Poems

FEBRUARY

Peer Group: Photography

Ellen Augarten, Sarah Holbrook

Peter Kitchell, Gregory Thorp, Frank Ward

MARCH

Marty Klein, Scanography

Kate Marion LaPierre, Abstract Painting

Carand Burnet, Wooden Cityscape Constructions



Marty Klein, Scanography

KAREN GARDNER
Offers Computer Help



One of the most valuable services libraries offer to the public is free access to computers. But to benefit from those computers, a person must know how to use them. Forbes has been very fortunate for the last several months to have a computer professional who volunteers every Wednesday afternoon to provide computer help to anyone who asks. She is Karen Gardner, a programmer, former employee at IBM and Mass Mutual, recently retired, who very much enjoys working one on one with people who want to learn how to use a computer.

Originally from New York, Karen has been in the valley for about 20 years and lives with her partner in Haydenville. She has a degree in computer science from Westfield State University, loves Forbes Library, and volunteers behind the scenes in the library as well as offering computer help to the public.

Keenly aware of how intimidating computers can be to those who haven't used them, Karen is very approachable and patient, someone who will try to help in any way she can, no matter what the question. She explains how computers work, what the Internet is and how to use it most effectively, what a browser is - all those buzz words that you need to understand to feel comfortable with a computer. She can also help you set up an email account, show you how to create a document (word processing), and for more experienced users she can help

see GARDNER, page 6

Meet Our Staff
ARTS and MUSIC LIBRARIAN
FAITH KAUFMANN



Tell us about what you do at the Forbes Library.

Like many of my colleagues, I wear a variety of hats. As Head of Arts and Music, I select books, audiobooks, music and movies for the collection. As one of three coordinators of Information Services, I help organize and plan services and programs for adults and older teens, help people find what they're looking for in the library or on the internet, and teach people how to use a computer, locate resources, and make sense of too much information. As Web Manager my goal is to keep our online presence current, useful, accessible, and easy to navigate. I also coordinate the Hosmer Gallery, manage our historic photograph and fine art collections, produce concerts, and work with community groups on collaborative projects. We may have met at the Reference Desk, in Arts & Music, or on the phone.

What resource(s) at Forbes Library do you wish more people knew about?

The biggest resource we have is that just about everything is free. Free learning, free entertainment, free exchange of ideas, free ways to strengthen community, empower citizens, and enrich life.

Everyone is talking about the migration to digital media. How do you think this will affect Forbes Library and its patrons?

The speed of change has definitely accelerated since the invention of the printing press! Libraries have to adapt quickly to make sure that we have the tools to provide access to everyone. Currently,

we lend print and downloadable books, e-audio and physical audiobooks in 3 formats, e-book readers, CDs, DVDs, computer games, and language instruction on USB drives. The bulk of our Reference resources are accessed online. We're watching the trends closely and doing our best to meet and anticipate changing needs. We're also creating our own digital content from unique local historical

materials, and building a "virtual museum" website to share our archival photographs on the web.

Publishers, consumers and librarians are still navigating important questions about how digital content will be controlled and accessed. How will it be paid for, will you own it or just rent it, can you share what you buy, will it still be there in a few years and will your machine (or your eyes) be able to read it? Who will be left out, and how can we keep the world of current knowledge and cultural heritage open to all?

What are you watching/listening to right now?

I just loved *The Mighty Uke*, a joyful documentary about the worldwide renaissance of the humble ukulele. It's a natural follow-up to borrowing one of our musical instruments for a three-week test drive. As it says on one of the ukules in the movie: "Music self-played is happiness self-made."

GAMING CLUB & WRITING GROUP

New for Kids!

Look for two new programs in the New Year!

The Children's Room will be sponsoring a monthly Gaming Club and Writing Group!

GAMING CLUB

for Elementary & Middle Schoolers

We love to Wii. With over 60 exciting games to choose from, there is no doubt that we'll have a blast. From Mario and Sonic to Lego Star Wars to Wii Party, we've got a great selection.

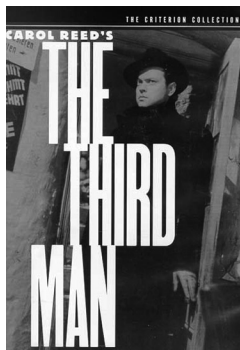
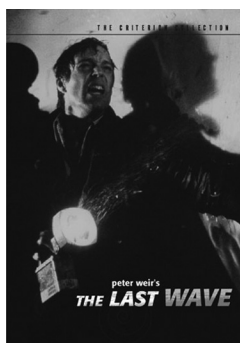
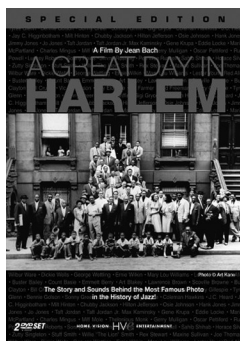
We'll be meeting in the Community Room on either Wednesday or Friday afternoons (please call or check event calendar for an update soon) and playing on a big screen. This is a free program for elementary and middle schoolers.

WRITING GROUP

for Upper-Elementary and Middle Schoolers

Reading is not the only thing we love to do here at the library. We also love to write! So we're starting a monthly Writing Group to get together with peers and get creative!! We'll be writing from prompts, sharing helpful hints, looking for inspiration in other teen writing, and constructively critiquing our peers' work.

We'll be meeting on either Wednesday or Friday in the Community room. This is a free program open to upper-elementary and middle schoolers. Preregistration is appreciated but NOT required! See you there!



NEW DVDS FROM PLEASANT ST. VIDEO

We're extremely fortunate that our community has helped us raise funds to purchase the Pleasant St. Video dvd collection. Here is a small sampling of the many titles we're grateful to now have on our shelves:

Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore

In this 1974 film, we see the lighter side of Martin Scorsese. Ellen Burstyn and Kris Kristofferson star in this tale about a widow who is looking for a better life for her and her son. Jodie Foster and Harvey Keitel also appear in memorable supporting roles.

A Great Day in Harlem

This documentary chronicles a photograph taken by Art Kane in August 1958. With narration by Quincy Jones, we learn about the 57 musicians who appeared in the now legendary picture.

The Last Wave

Australian writer and director Peter Weir's haunting drama confronts dreams and reality, the end of civilization and the intricacies of the Aboriginal culture. It's a real head scratcher!

The Third Man

Adapted from a Graham Greene novella, the Third Man stars Joseph Cotton as Holly Martins. Martins travels throughout Vienna searching for a friend who has mysteriously disappeared. Orson Welles makes a stunning appearance in the third act of this classic.

The Wild Child

François Truffaut stars and directs this wonderful period piece about a delicate student/teacher relationship. Truffaut's character, Dr. Jean Itard, patiently attempts to communicate with and provide social skills to an 11-year-old boy who has lived his entire isolated life in the wilderness.

Street, approached Forbes Library and asked if we could raise the money to buy their entire collection. We were excited to try and thrilled with the prospect of offering a comprehensive catalog of film – not only to the people of Northampton, but for the region and the entire state, via inter-library loan – for people and places that don't have the access, the bandwidth or the money to see these great movies. Together with PSV, we put together a fundraising campaign to save as many DVDs as we could.

Little did we expect the phenomenon that followed. In 6 weeks, customers, patrons and friends donated over \$60,000 – enough to move Pleasant Street Video's 8,000 films to Forbes Library. This triples the library's DVD collection, and keeps this outstanding film collection – including many rare and out-of-print titles – available to the local community, free.

Library staff and dedicated volunteers are working as fast as they can to get this enormous collection to the shelves. Each item has to be cataloged and processed, and the library needs to buy supplies including security cases. The total cost of making the collection is available is estimated at \$34,000, so we are still gratefully accepting donations at the library or online at <http://forbeslibrary.org/psv>. It's impossible to predict exactly when the job will be completed, but dozens of new DVDs are coming to the shelves daily. A weekly list of new items is online at <http://bit.ly/ForbesDVDs>, and you can sign up to have it delivered via email. You can also "like" us on Facebook to see frequent updates.

Thanks to all the friends of movies, libraries and free access who made this possible!



NEW MOBILE-OPTIMIZED WEBSITE

Quick Smartphone Access to Forbes Library

Smartphone users can now access the library's new website optimized for iPhone and Android models. Point your handheld device to <http://forbeslibrary.org/mobile> or scan this QR code to find library information, events calendar, the catalog, databases, e-books & e-audio, reading recommendations and more.

with wireless connection, scanning, spreadsheets, and so on.

Exploring retirement, Karen is taking classes in drawing and painting at Hill Institute, and she is an avid photographer. Right now she is at Forbes every Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m., usually in the Reference room. This is a remarkable opportunity for Forbes users, so do come in to see her. If you want to talk with her but can't come in during those Wednesday hours, speak to someone in the Reference room about the times that would work for you. Karen says she is open to increasing her hours if there is more demand for her help.

Drop-in Computer Help at Forbes Reference

Do you need a little help with the computer?
Having trouble getting started, or ran into a sticky problem?
Want to get your first email account?
Looking for a better way to format a document?

Come to the drop-in computer help session!

Bring your wireless laptop or use one of the library's computers to have your questions answered.

**Wednesdays 2-4 pm
in the Reference Room**

