

From the Top Shelf

A message from Stephen Fulchino, Library Director

Casa da Saudade Renovations

The City has begun extensive renovations of the building that houses the Casa da Saudade Branch. At the end of the project, the space given to the branch area will have new shelving, repaired and newly painted walls, new carpet, more public area, more storage space, and a new and separate meeting/videoconferencing room.

However, to produce this new and better Casa, the branch will need to shut down for between four and eight weeks. The closing will start in the latter half of September. I expect the branch to reopen before Thanksgiving – although anyone who has ever been involved in a construction project knows that nothing is set in stone. While Casa is closed, part of the Portuguese collection – recent magazines and newer fiction – will be available at the Howland-Green and Wilks Libraries.

The City is also renovating the outside of the building, especially repointing the bricks. On the inside, the other two remaining tenants, the Immigrants Assistance Center and the Portuguese School, will also end up with much improved quarters.

The City is funding the renovation with a federal grant from HUD (Housing and Urban Development). This is only the first phase of the renovations. Future phases, which are dependent on the availability of federal and state funds, will work on the parts of the building untouched in the first phase, allowing a further expansion of the area of the branch.

Main Library Floods

As many of you know, the Main Library had a minor flood during the downpour on the morning of August 11th. When the sewers nearby were overwhelmed, water cascaded down the driveway in the back onto the first floor.

I would like to salute Adelina Soares, a Library Assistant in the Children's Room, for her quick thinking. When she realized what was happening, she unplugged the computers in the Children's Room, which were on the floor, and place them on chairs. Thus, no computers were lost.

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Staff Profile: Catch a Rising Star!

Shakespeare said "All the world's a stage." One person who follows that pronouncement is Russell Ramos, a library assistant at the Main Library.

The acting bug bit Russ in the first grade, when he performed in the play *Stone Soup*. He recalls, "When the teacher asked who wanted to speak first, I jumped up for the part."

More recently, Russ played the part of a whaler on the deck of the *Charles W. Morgan* at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. When documentary producer Rick Burns asked for volunteers among the cast to do some extra business, Russ naturally stepped forward. He pointed out to Rick the spot on the ship where his grandfather used to sit tending the rope coils by pouring water on them. This prevented them from tangling once a whale was harpooned. So Rick assigned that exact spot to him for the scene.

Russ also played a dock worker in a documentary about Walt Whitman in New Bedford that aired on PBS in April. His other acting credits include a Mike's Hard Lemonade commercial filmed in Florida and a Bank Five ad which aired in the Southern New England-Boston market.

Before joining the library's full time staff, Russ was a paraprofessional at the Global Charter Learning School. Assisting in the tech department, he taught after-school journalism. His students put together an interview show for Cable Access and received a certificate from the Department of Education honoring their efforts.

Locally, Russ studied at Bristol Community College and received a BA in interdisciplinary studies from UMass Dartmouth. While at the University he also studied voice with local opera diva, the late Madame Jacqueline Cobert, and participated in one of her opera workshops. He began at UMass as an art major and continues to draw landscapes using pastels and does miniature sculptures.

Married with two children, Russ also enjoys swimming and reading and hosting a local cable show.



This newsletter is produced by the staff of the New Bedford Free Public Library.
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We the People...

The New Bedford Free Public Library are six of the 3,000 libraries across the country selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA) to receive free hardcover editions of 17 classic books from the *We the People* Bookshelf. The theme of this year's bookshelf is "Created Equal."

The *We the People* Bookshelf on "Created Equal" contains the following books:

- **Grades K-3:** *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Anderson; *The Gettysburg Address* by Abraham Lincoln; and *Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco
- **Grades 4-6:** *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis; *Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence* by Russell Freedman; *Lincoln: A Photobiography* by Russell Freedman; *Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom* by Virginia Hamilton; and *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson
- **Grades 7-8:** *Saturnalia* by Paul Fleischman; *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Russell Freedman; *Abraham Lincoln the Writer: A Treasury of His Greatest Speeches and Letters* edited by Harold Holzer; and *Breaking Through* by Francisco Jiménez

Picturing America

The New Bedford Free Public Library has been awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Picturing America Grant. This grant consists of 20 two-sided reproductions of art by American painters, sculptors, photographers and architects spanning three centuries.

NEH Chairman Bruce Cole states that "Picturing America helps us understand our democracy by

- **Grades 9-12:** *Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution* by Natalie S. Bober; *That All People May Be One People, Send Rain to Wash the Face of the Earth* by Nez Perce Chief Joseph; *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes; *Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography* by William Lee Miller; and *Amistad: A Novel* by David Pesci

The award is part of the NEH's *We the People* initiative, which supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. New Bedford's Main library, all four branches and the bookmobile have received a set of the 21 books, including Spanish translations of four of the titles.

All participating libraries will present programs on the theme of "Created Equal" for their library patrons. The New Bedford Free Public Library will present special story hours, a series of programs and other special events.

For more information about the upcoming fall and winter *We the People* Bookshelf programs and events at the New Bedford libraries, contact any of the libraries listed on the back cover of this newsletter or consult the library's web site at www.newbedfordlibrary.org.

bringing us face to face with the people, places, and events that have shaped our country. It provides an innovative way to experience America's history through our nation's art."

Many reproductions relate to Massachusetts and New Bedford art and history. The reproductions are displayed at the main library and all branch libraries.

Books You May Have Missed (But Shouldn't)



Shea, Suzanne Strempek – *Becoming Finola* (FIC Shea) (2004)

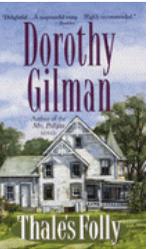
When Sophie White finds herself abandoned by a friend in a quirky Irish village, she decides to make the best of it. Soon she has a job, a house, even a man in her life, all of which once belonged to Finola O'Flynn. Though Finola left the village several years ago, her mystique lives on. As Sophie becomes more accepted in the village, as she finds herself replacing Finola more and more, she realizes she's found a place for herself. And then Finola returns....

Suzanne Strempek Shea is also the author of *Lily of the Valley* and *Shelf Life*.

Gilman, Dorothy – *Thale's Folly* (MYS Gilman) (1999)

Sent to close down an old house by his overbearing father, who is also his employer, Andrew Thale finds a lovable group of eccentrics in possession. Reluctant to evict them, Andrew becomes caught up in their lives. While trying to solve a mystery involving the property, Andrew not only draws close to pretty, young Tarragon, but rediscovers the creativity which his job has stifled. Along the way, he stumbles across some surprising secrets which change how he views himself, and his world, forever.

Dorothy Gilman is the author of the Mrs. Pollifax series.



Frankly Speaking

Ever want to read something different, but didn't know quite what? An important function of any library is to recommend books to patrons. At the Wilks Library, our patron, Frank, also excels at recommending books to staff and other patrons, so we thought we'd let him share a few ideas with other New Bedford Library patrons.

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I have been asked to give my opinion on books that I've read. Some of you may feel that my opinion is worth as much as the cost of a book from the library, but I will give it a try.

If you liked the TV series *JAG* you will probably enjoy books by author Brian Haig. Haig's books feature former Army officer-turned-cocky-army-lawyer Sean Drummond. If you like your legal thrillers to have a dose of wry humor, try this series, which starts with *Secret Sanction*.

In P.T. Deutermann's *Official Privilege*, an NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service) officer investigates the murder of a lieutenant on a

mothballed battleship. Deutermann, a former Naval officer himself, writes with inside knowledge of the military and Washington politics.

Author Stephen Cannell uses his experience at writing for shows like *The A-Team* and *the Rockford Files* to write his books featuring LAPD detective Shane Scully. In the first book, *The Tin Collectors*, Scully is investigated by LAPD internal affairs (a.k.a. "Tin Collectors") after killing his ex-partner in self-defense. To clear his name, Scully must work with the Internal Affairs prosecutor, Alexa Hamilton, to uncover a conspiracy in this fast-paced blend of action and mystery.

If you get a chance, you should pick up books by Brad Thor. Thor's books feature ex-Navy SEAL Scot Harvath. In the first book in the series, *The Lions of Lucerne*, terrorists kidnap the president, and it is up to Harvath, survivor of an attack on the president's Secret Service team, to get him back. Thor's books are full of non-stop action and suspense.

The Hot List (Upcoming Books)

These popular authors are publishing new books in the next few months. They might not be in bookstores or libraries yet, but if they are in our catalog, you can still put them on hold and be at the top of the list!



September

- Beaton, M.C. – *A Spoonful of Poison*
- Brown, Rita Mae – *Hounded to Death*
- Bushnell, Candace – *One Fifth Avenue*
- Gerritsen, Tess – *The Keepsake*
- Graham, Heather – *Deadly Night*
- Gregory, Philippa – *The Other Queen*
- Hooper, Kay – *Something Different*
- Macomber, Debbie – *One Sandpiper Way*
- Mayor, Archer – *The Catch*
- McCall Smith, Alexander – *The Comforts of a Muddy Saturday*
- Melzer, Brad – *The Book of Lies*
- Michaels, Fern – *Final Justice*
- Rice, Luanne – *The Letters*
- Sandford, John – *Heat Lightning*
- Sparks, Nicholas – *The Lucky One*
- Tapply, William – *Hell Bent*
- Wiggs, Susan – *Just Breathe*
- Woods, Stuart – *Hot Mahogany*

October

- Andrews, V.C. – *Delia's Crossing*
- Connelly, Michael – *Brass Verdict*
- Cornwell, Patricia – *Scarpetta*
- DeMille, Nelson – *Gate House*
- Flynn, Vince – *Extreme Measures*
- Johansen, Iris – *Dark Summer*
- Kellerman, Jonathan – *Bones*
- Le Carre, John – *A Most Wanted Man*
- Macomber, Debbie – *A Cedar Cove Christmas*
- McCall Smith, Alexander – *Akimbo and the Baboons*
- Morrell, David – *Spy Who Came for Christmas*
- Parker, Robert – *Rough Weather*
- Perry, Anne – *Christmas Grace*
- Robb, J.D. – *Salvation in Death*
- Shreve, Anita – *Testimony*
- Steel, Danielle – *A Good Woman*
- Truman, Margaret – *Murder inside the Beltway*
- Updike, John – *Widows of Eastwick*

November

- Baldacci, David – *Divine Justice*
- Brown, Rita Mae – *Santa Clawed*
- Cussler, Clive – *Arctic Drift*
- Deaver, Jeffrey – *The Bodies Left Behind*
- Howard, Linda – *Under the Mistletoe*
- King, Stephen – *Just after Sunset* (stories)
- Koontz, Dean – *Your Heart Belongs to Me*
- McCall Smith, Alexander – *World According to Bertie*
- Miller, Linda Lael – *McKetrick Christmas*
- Morrison, Toni – *A Mercy*
- Patterson, James – *Cross Country*

Wild Reads @ the Library

This summer, more than 350 children went wild about reading at the New Bedford Free Public Library's Summer Reading Program. The theme, *Wild Reads @ the Library*, allowed the libraries to partner with the Buttonwood Park Zoo and other animal groups to have fun animal-related programs.

Jen Karow, the Buttonwood Park Zoological Society's program coordinator, visited each library to read books and to talk about the Zoo. The biggest hit of the day was... elephant dung which had been dried and shellacked. Children and adults got a chance to touch it.

Each library also had a live animal show. Wilks and the Main Library had "New England Reptiles." Reptile expert Marla Isaacs brought snakes, turtles and even an alligator to show the audience. The audience was allowed to touch the large python she brought (if they dared!).



Marla Isaacs holds "Big Al," a rescued alligator she owns.

Creature Teachers Rick and Karen Roth brought their show "Animals around the World" to Lawler and Howland-Green. Children saw and learned about tarantulas, a tree porcupine, a tree frog, an agouti (a burrowing rodent from South America) and a boa constrictor. Several adventuresome children formed a line to hold the snake while others, including two library assistants, decided that it was a good time to leave the room.

Animal World Experience at Casa brought a tree frog, chinchilla, a snake, and a Brazilian short-tailed possum. Children were allowed to pet each animal. They all lined up for the snake – except for one adult who quickly left the room!

Over 150 adults and children attended the party at the Buttonwood Park Zoo which capped off the Summer Reading Program. Each child received free admittance to the Zoo with one adult. Everyone enjoyed cake and punch on the grass across from the elephant pen. The top boy and girl readers in the entire program were Abigail Rottler (Wilks) and Yunxin Gao (Howland-Green) and each received coupons to Flagship Cinemas. The top boy and girl readers at each library received backpacks from VF Factory Outlet. Coupons to Old Country Buffet were given to 5 children at each library as the 2nd through 6th prizes.

The Library is very grateful to the sponsors of the Summer Reading Program: The Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library, Domino's Pizza, McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, VF Factory Outlet, Flagship Cinemas and Old Country Buffet. We are also grateful for the enthusiasm of the Buttonwood Park Zoo and the Buttonwood Park Zoological Society.

Top Boy and Girl Readers

Casa	Brittney DeMelo Nathan Turner
Howland-Green	Elzaiah Burgo Yunxin Gao
Lawler	Phaedra Hart Elijah Jope
Main	Nakira Examond Michael Maloney
Wilks	Abigail Rottler Stephen Pollard

What's Going On?

Story Hours

Fall story time runs from September 29 to December 6.

- Lawler – Mondays @10am
- Wilks – Wednesdays @10am
- Howland-Green – Thursdays @3:30pm
- Main Library – Saturdays @10am
- Lapsit Story Hour – Lawler, Wednesdays @10am

Holiday Hours

Monday, Sep. 1 – Labor Day – closed
 Monday, Oct. 13 – Columbus Day – closed

Book Launching

“Capelinhos: Synergy of a Volcano: Azorean Immigration to America”

Thursday, October 3 @6:00 p.m.; New Bedford Whaling Museum

This program, sponsored in part by the Casa da Saudade Library, discusses the eruption of the volcano Capelinhos on the island of Faial and its effect on Azorean emigration to the United States.

Book Discussion Group – “Book Bites”

First Meeting – Tuesday, October 21; every 3rd Tuesday thereafter.

6:00 – 7:30 pm; Wilks Branch

The club will be discussing popular fiction that has some substance. The first title is *The Daughter of Time*, by Josephine Tey, considered to be one of the best detective novels of the 20th century. Refreshments will be served. Copies of the book are available for pickup at Wilks. Please register by October 10.

Halloween Programs

Wilks – Tuesday, October 28 @6pm

Main Library – Wednesday, October 29 @3pm

Howland-Green – Thursday, October 30 @3:30

Lawler – Thursday, October 30 @6pm

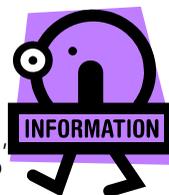
Did You Know?

Now you can reserve museum passes from home!

All of the Library's museum passes can now be reserved online. Save time by checking out the library's web site to see what passes are available for any given day, and then reserve the one you want.

- Click on the Museum name to be taken to the museum's web site, or click on the **Pass Details** link to view prices and other information about the pass.
- To reserve a pass, click the **Request Pass** button. You will be taken to a form to complete to reserve the pass.
- Enter your valid Adult SAILS library card number and PIN number and click **SUBMIT**.
- Complete the form and click **CONTINUE**. Verify your information and click **Submit Request**.

You must have your library card with you to check out the pass.



Hours & Locations

Main Library

613 Pleasant St.

508-991-6275

TTY: 508-991-6258

Monday:	9am – 9pm
Tuesday:	9am – 9pm
Wednesday:	9am – 9pm
Thursday:	9am – 9pm
Friday:	9am – 5pm
Saturday:	9am – 5pm

Genealogy Department

3rd floor of Main Library

508-991-6276

Monday:	1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
Tuesday:	1pm – 5pm
Wednesday:	1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
Thursday:	1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
Friday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm
Saturday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm

Art Room

3rd floor of Main Library

508-979-1787

Monday:	closed
Tuesday:	1pm – 5pm
Wednesday:	1pm – 5pm
Thursday:	1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
Friday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm
Saturday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm

Branch Libraries

Casa da Saudade 58 Crapo St. 508-991-6218	Howland-Green 3 Rodney French Blvd. 508-991-6212
Lawler 745 Rockdale Ave. 508-991-6216	Wilks 1911 Acushnet Ave. 508-991-6214
Monday: 9am – 5pm Tuesday: 12pm – 8pm Wednesday: 9am – 5pm Thursday: 12pm – 8pm Friday: 9am – 5pm Saturday: 9am – 5pm	

Bookmobile

The Bookmobile visits schools, neighborhoods and adult centers throughout New Bedford. For the Bookmobile schedule, please call 508-991-6214.

New Faces in the Art Room



If you visit the Art Room during the week, you may get a glimpse an Audubon bird or 18th century engraving, thanks to the work of these two women. Amanda Kovacs (left) is an intern from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. As part of her degree requirements, the art history major is examining and creating catalog worksheets for the Birds of America engravings, marking the first time the library has fully cataloged these iconic images. An enthusiasm for history, art and New Bedford led Jill Horton-Simms (right) to become a volunteer. Right now she is helping to inventory the various prints and drawings stored in the Art Room.

Cut here for an Hours & Locations bookmark