



# BOOKMARKS

FRIENDS OF THE SCARSDALE LIBRARY

Winter 2012

## From the President

As 2011 draws to a close and we look ahead to the start of a new year, it seems appropriate to take a moment to reflect on the activities and accomplishments of the past few months. For the Friends of the Library, that means first and foremost reporting on the success of our annual Book Sale in September.

We're pleased to report that total sales this year were tantalizingly close to an almost unimaginable \$50,000. Clearly, much as we all love our e-readers, we also find it hard to resist the appeal of a nearly new hardcover copy of, say, *The Help*, for the bargain price of \$3.50! So thank you, everyone, for your fabulous donations (a record number of books and other items came in this year, many in beautiful condition), and then for coming to shop once the sale was on. We thank our Book Sale manager, Kathy Steves, for her extraordinary leadership, her excellent organizational and planning capabilities and her unparalleled knowledge of books. And we also deeply appreciate our extremely dedicated book sale volunteers, many of whom worked close to 40-hour weeks over the summer helping us sort donations, and then logged more long hours in September preparing for and running the sale. In all, an amazing group effort. By the way, start stockpiling your donations for next year's book sale – we'll begin collecting them next July, which will be here before we know it!

The money raised from the Book Sale is put to many uses, as you will see reading through this newsletter, but I would like to highlight just one for now: our biannual "Swinging Sunday" jazz concert series. The most recent concert took place on Sunday, October 30, when the Friends of the Library sponsored a performance by the incredible singer and songwriter Amanda McBroom. You may recall that an anomalous weather event had just occurred in the northeast that weekend and many residents were without power that day. Despite that inconvenient snowstorm (or perhaps to escape their cold, dark homes), a good crowd was on hand to be entertained, and it was a truly special performance, made more so by Ms. McBroom's composure in the face of a sudden loss of power at the library half way through her show! She barely faltered, the music continued, the crowd was able to forget their worries for an hour and an excellent time was had by all. If you missed it, mark your calendars for the next Swinging Sunday jazz concert at 4:00 on April 22, 2012 (Earth Day!), when we will welcome Laura Hull back to Scarsdale. We

can't promise you the same weather excitement, but we're certain it will be a terrific event.

Wishing you and yours all the best for 2012.

Kathy Gray  
President, Friends of the Library

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## From the Board of Trustees

### *President's Message*

It's almost ready...

In a few weeks, the library's Board of Trustees, director and staff will unveil "The Scarsdale Public Library Strategic Plan 2012-2017," a goal-driven vision and a blueprint for growth that will lead us through the next five years.

You, the Scarsdale community, participated in this endeavor. You told us in focus groups, surveys, and informal conversations with the staff and board members your visions for the library. The plan reflects your input and sets a course for becoming the best that a library can be. Keep an eye out for the debut in January – and don't forget to continue to tell us what you think!

As December draws to a close, it's a good time to take stock of the year's accomplishments: the inaugural Spelling-Bee fundraiser; a new foreign film series; the placement of outdoor furniture (some of which made a nice transition to its winter home in the lobby); and the first (but not last) e-Book Day to help patrons understand their Kindles, Nooks, or iPads. Let's not forget our wonderful Teen Advisory Board, which organized the first-ever Scarsdale Teen Writers Conference. There's more to mention – but with limited space, I'll conclude with our year-end highlight: the installation of state-of-the-art presentation capabilities in the Scott Room that include a high-definition projector, wide screen and new speakers. This will greatly enhance the programs and meetings.

Our thanks to the Friends of the Scarsdale Library; the Spelling Bee Committee (an amalgam of Friends and other community leaders); and our library director and staff, for a wonderful 2011.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I wish you a healthy and joyful 2012.

Barbara Josselson  
President, Scarsdale Library

## From the Library Director

Where does the time go? It seems we are all asking that question at this time of year. As I look back over the months since the last Bookmarks, I realize that it was time well spent here at the library.

We are so pleased that we were able to upgrade the audio/visual equipment in the Scott Room, thanks to the Friends of the Scarsdale Library. We added a blu-ray DVD player, a new projector, improved presentation equipment and sound enhancements. I hope you will have a chance to enjoy these improvements by attending programs and events in the coming months.

The Friends of the Scarsdale Library also purchased the wonderful outdoor café tables and chairs on the library plaza. I hope you had a chance to relax, read, snack, chat or use your laptop in the beautiful outdoor setting this summer and fall.

While not as noticeable, we are also thrilled that our antiquated HVAC unit was replaced this fall. This project was partially funded by a NYS Construction Grant, a NYS Community Capital Assistance Program grant supported by Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, and the Friends of the Scarsdale Library. Having a reliable, energy-efficient heating and cooling system means greater comfort for all our visitors and staff.

In addition to all the physical improvements, we have been busy providing great programs and events. Our Summer Reading Game was a great success, as were the other summer programs for children, most of which were sponsored by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library. We could not have had such a fun summer without their support!

We also had great attendance at our independent film series and Nancy's Book Group. Our Museum Pass Program was expanded during its second year and many of you are taking advantage of this fantastic program, funded by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library.

Our online services, Freegal and Overdrive Advantage, are becoming ever more popular. Freegal is a service that allows Scarsdale Library cardholders to download up to three songs per week. The content on Overdrive, the subscription service for downloadable audiobooks and e-books, is now downloadable to Kindles. We know that all the changes in technology can be a bit overwhelming, so we offered "e-Book Day" in December to help our patrons learn how to take advantage of Overdrive. Check out "*Borrowing E-books*" below and visit our website to learn more.

Looking ahead to 2012, we have great things in the works. Keep an eye out for the unveiling of our Strategic Plan, which provides a road map for the next five years. The Scarsdale community spoke, we listened and now we will be working to make sure we are giving you the library you desire, now and in the future.

We wish you a happy, healthy and safe New Year and hope to see you soon!

Elizabeth (Beth) Bermel  
Library Director

## The Buzz about the Adult and Teen Spelling Bee

Are you an unparalleled orthographer with a penchant for bacchanalia? Then it's time to put your currency where your orifice is and enter the Scarsdale Adult and Teen Spelling Bee!

Hundreds of people of all ages will once again swarm to the Scarsdale High School auditorium for the second annual Scarsdale Library Adult and Teen Spelling Bee on January 27, 2012 at 7:30pm. (Snow date: Feb. 3.) While "silence and tension" are the hallmarks of children's spelling bees, this Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, will encourage all participants to laugh, relax and have fun. The audience will be entertained by trivia questions, music, and emcee Ed Coleman, the radio voice of the New York Mets. An esteemed panel that includes NYS Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Scarsdale Mayor Miriam Levitt Flisser and Teen Advisory Board member Jamie Tanzer will judge the bee teams.

Proceeds from this year's Spelling Bee, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, are slated toward enlivening the Library's Children's Room with brighter lighting and colorful, durable carpeting that will help create a warmer, more comfortable environment for children and their caregivers.

Donations from last year's Bee plus a grant from the Friends of the Library have enabled the Library to complete the technology upgrades to the community room. Library patrons are now enjoying Wi-Fi and, by January, will benefit from a new projector, a larger screen, and surround sound. Adults and children who attend films at the Library will now enjoy amazingly vivid resolution and wonderful sound. This upgrade will also greatly enhance the many programs held in the room by community organizations, the Scarsdale Adult School, and the Library itself. The new equipment includes wireless microphones so presenters can move freely around the stage and the room, and a remote control so Power Point presentations and video clips can be controlled from the podium.

Each member of the winning team will receive a Kindle Fire tablet and there will also be prizes for the other three teams who make it to the final round, as well as raffle prizes for audience members. Our current roster of teams includes teens from the Library's Teen Advisory Board and from the Scarsdale Teen Center board as well as both new and returning adult teams. Library Board President Barbara Josselsohn will compete against her daughter Rachel, while three generations of Guggenheimers (Randy, Randy Jr. and Brian) will once again compete as a team.

There is still time for your team to sign up and join in the fun. The deadline is December 31. Each team may consist of up to three members, high-school age or above, and pays an entry fee of \$150. During the Bee, team members may collaborate among themselves on how to spell the words. Each team will write its answer on a dry erase board until the final round, when the top teams will spell their words verbally.



Businesses and individuals who are interested in sponsoring the Bee by making a donation of \$250 or more should contact Sara Werder at 472-6264. In addition, we are now offering the opportunity to become a "Friend of the Bee" by sending in a donation of any amount. You can use the enclosed donation form or print one out at the Library website.

Application forms for Spelling Bee teams are available at the Library or online at [www.scarsdalelibrary.org/friends](http://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/friends). For more information, contact Spelling Bee Chairs Renu Lalwani at 917-584-8834 ([renublalwani@gmail.com](mailto:renublalwani@gmail.com)) or Sara Werder at 472-6264 ([sarawerder@gmail.com](mailto:sarawerder@gmail.com))

## Teen Advisory Board

The Scarsdale Public Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has been busy this year planning more teen events at the library. The TAB just successfully sponsored its first annual NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) write-in, an event that encourages participants to begin writing novels on November 1st and strive for 50,000 words by the end of the month by writing a little bit each day. Opening on Veteran's Day solely to accommodate students who love to write, the library was dedicated to providing students a supportive environment conducive to the sharing of ideas and the discussion of their writing. Students were able to progress further in their stories, benefiting from the focused intensity around them and having other young writers on hand to read their work. The TAB is already in the midst of planning more events for the Spring, including a second annual Teen Writer's Conference where students can participate in writing workshops lead by professional writers.

Marisa Brown & Rachel Josselson  
Co-Presidents

## Borrowing E-books

As you've probably heard, among the hottest categories for gift giving this year are e-book readers and tablets. Naturally, we're doing everything we can to help our patrons stay current with the latest reading technologies.

Our goal is to work with all our patrons to help everyone take full advantage of the Library's growing collection of downloadable books. Toward that end, the Library has acquired a selection of e-reader devices: an Apple iPad, a Barnes and Noble Nook, an Amazon Kindle and a Sony Reader. We're using them to help you learn more about e-readers and how to easily download library books to these devices. We're also eager to help guide you to information about the pros and cons of an ever growing list of new devices.

If you already own an e-reader, you can call us or stop by for advice on how to make it work with our Library's e-book collection. And while the Westchester Library System is continually expanding its e-book collection, the Scarsdale Library is adding extra copies and titles to its electronic collection that are available exclusively to Scarsdale Library cardholders.

To learn more, just click on the Download Audiobooks & E-books link on our home page at [www.scarsdalelibrary.org](http://www.scarsdalelibrary.org), or call the Reference Desk at 722-1300, ext. 2.

Jennifer Friedman  
Reference Services Manager

## Children's Corner

It's time to curl up with a good book this winter as we continue our book clubs for 2nd through 8th graders. Some tempting titles are: *Call of the Wild* by Jack London, *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman, *Son of the Mob* by Gordon Korman, and *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* by Tomie DePaola. Please register online.

We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year with a bang on January 21. Join us for traditional and not so traditional stories, crafts, and a little snack tucked in for fun!

Don't forget to practice your reading skills with the wonderful, cuddly and attentive dogs from the Good Dog Foundation. They will be here January 14 and March 10, at 3:00pm, for "Wag Your Tale!" Please register online.



Looking for something to do with toddlers on Saturdays? Parachute Playtime will be held on January 14, February 18, and March 10, at 10:30am. Big, bright colorful parachutes, and lots of singable songs make this program great fun for ages 2½ to 4.

The children's room is pleased to have Tom Greenwald, author of *Charlie Jo Jackson's Guide to Not Reading*, visiting on Wednesday, March 7, at 7:00pm. The book is about a reluctant reader who has somehow managed to avoid reading until he can avoid it no more when he reaches middle school. It's a great comedy!

We are currently working with C.H.I.L.D. to develop programming for special needs children. It's still in the working stages, but we hope to offer, among other programs, story times, movies and "Wag Your Tale."

Please visit us online for details about these and such other programs as *Robert the Guitar Guy*, *Mother Goose Time* for babies to age 2½, *Mommy and Me Yoga* for walkers, *Musical Munchkins* for babies to age 2 and movies for kids of all ages. Finally, the Scarsdale Library has created a partnership with the Hudson Valley Writers' Center, which will be offering an 8-class workshop for young writers beginning February 7 that will culminate in a public reading and celebration. Registration (and tuition) is required.

Karen A. Zielinski  
Head of Children's Services



## Museum Pass News

The second season of the Museum Pass Program is off to a great start. We are now members of thirteen museums. This fall, we added Boscobel House and Gardens, Storm King Art Center, Museum of the City of New York, and New-York Historical Society to our list. We are particularly excited about the reopening of the New-York Historical Society after its multi-million dollar, three-year renovation. We have also added a second pass to many of the museums, including the popular Intrepid and Stepping Stones Museum for Children. Please stop by the Reference Department for the information booklet and selected museum brochures.

Ann-Marie Cutul  
Reference Librarian

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**WHAT SCARSDALE IS READING**

**Fiction**

11/22/63: A Novel – Stephen King  
V is for Vengeance – Sue Grafton  
The Marriage Plot – Jeffrey Eugenides  
The Sense of an Ending – Julian Barnes  
The Litigators – John Grisham

**Non-Fiction**

Steve Jobs – Walter Isaacson  
Thinking, Fast and Slow – Daniel Kahneman  
Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World  
– Michael Lewis  
Then Again – Diane Keaton  
The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family's  
Century of Art and Loss – Edmund De Waal

*The Friends of the Scarsdale Library is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that supports the Scarsdale Library through volunteer service and cultural and educational activities. The Friends gives financial assistance to fund the continuing improvement of library facilities, collections and programs, and serves as a conduit through which gifts and memorials go directly to the library.*

**Find out more about the Friends of the Scarsdale Library at [www.scarsdalelibrary.org/friends](http://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/friends).**

**WHAT SCARSDALE IS WATCHING**

- Super 8
- Bad Teacher
- Horrible Bosses
- Sarah's Key
- Our Idiot Brother

**Independent Film Series**

The Independent Film Series at the Library is still going strong and will be enhanced by the new audio-visual system in the Scott Room. On the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, the Library screens a different independent film. Recent highlights include the Israeli film, "The Human Resources Manager," the Chadian film, "A Screaming Man, and the Belgian film, "Illegal." The program will continue this winter with films from around the world, including the Czech Republic, Israel, Turkey, and Norway.

Daniel Glauber

**Bookmarks**

**Issue #126**

Published by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library  
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Christine Bensché, Vice President  
Betsy Bohrer, Treasurer  
Ann Lewis, Secretary  
Ottillie Jarmel, Bookmarks Editor

**Library Hours**

Mon., Tues. & Wed. 9-9 p.m., Thurs. 9-6 p.m.  
Fri. – Sat., 9-5 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.  
Library Express: Always Open  
Library Information: 914-722-1300  
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[www.scarsdalelibrary.org](http://www.scarsdalelibrary.org)

**PLEASE GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

One priority of the library and the Friends is to obtain the email addresses of everyone in our community. We are beginning to send reminder notices of speaker events, children's programs, jazz performances, Book Sale information, and other library happenings by email. We also wish to become more "green." Connecting by email saves on paper, printing costs, postage and truck delivery resources. Thank you in advance for giving us your email address.

All email addresses supplied to the library and/or to the Friends are for the sole use of the library and/or the Friends. All contact information, including email addresses, is kept strictly confidential. We do not share this information with, or sell it to, any person or entity.