



# LIBRARY NOTES

April 2011

NEEDHAM  
FREE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

Welcome to *Library Notes*, a monthly publication of the Needham Free Public Library. *Library Notes* describes both the monthly events at the Library and the ongoing services...

## McIver Lecture Series 2011

### Needham's Baker Estate – Gloria Greis, Executive Director – Needham Historical Society

Sunday, April 10th

2:00 PM

Hardly anyone outside Needham and Wellesley remembers anymore, but 120 years ago, Ridge Hill Farms was known far and wide. Ridge Hill, also known as the Baker Estate, was the home and creation of William Emerson Baker, founder of the Grover and Baker Sewing Machine Company. After taking an early retirement at age 40, the now phenomenally rich Baker purchased nearly 800 acres in the southwest corner of Needham. In the twenty years that followed, Baker filled his summer estate with over 100 amusements, attractions and exhibits. These included a museum of industry, two bear pits for his pets, an underground crystal grotto featuring the Forty Thieves, a pleasure lake, saloons and restaurants, and a 225-room luxury hotel. Gloria Greis will be speaking on the fascinating Baker Estates and their unique place in Needham's history. A discussion will follow. *This event is sponsored by the Trustees of the Needham Free Public Library and is the third of three programs on Needham's Path to 300.*



### Dr. Richard Pollack - Insects and Ticks That Find Us Attractive

Tuesday, April 26th

7:30 PM



Springtime brings melting of snow, sprouting of flowers, and the emergence of ticks and mosquitoes to take our minds off the bed bugs and head lice that occupy us year round. Dr. Pollack will talk about creatures that find us attractive, how they locate us, the risks we incur, and what we can do about them. He will place specimens under a microscope, and project them for us to identify. Dr. Pollack has earned degrees in entomology and parasitology, and served as a public health entomol-

ogist for more than two decades at the Harvard School of Public Health. This Needham resident represents Norfolk County on mosquito and mosquito control matters, operates a local consulting company, is on the faculty at Boston University, and conducts research worldwide. *This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.*

### Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys

Saturday, April 23rd

10:30 AM



Boston-based singer-songwriter and children's performer, Vanessa Trien, has become a local rock star among the young and young at heart. The "Nessa Groupies" sing and dance in the aisles at her packed shows with her lively band the Jumping Monkeys, and can't get enough of her two award-winning children's CDs 'Carnival Day' and 'Hot Air Balloon.' Vanessa is also Boston's best-kept secret because her rise in children's music coincided with her starting a family which, up until recently, has kept her relatively close to home. But watch out because Vanessa and the Jumping Monkeys are broadening their touring circuit! *This Program is sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.*

**\*\*SPECIAL EVENT\*\***

### Children's Author Erin Hunter

Thursday, April 14th

4:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\*Pollard School Auditorium\*\*\*\*\*

(PLEASE NOTE LOCATION FOR THIS EVENT)



Cosponsored by the Needham Free Public Library and The Wellesley Booksmith. Books will be available for Purchase and Autographing.

# What's happening this month in the Children's Room...

## *Children's Programs in April*

Drop-in Storytime for ages 5 and under



Wed., April 13, 20, 27 10:00 AM

Fri., April 15th 10:30 AM

Stories, music, movement and more.

Baby Laptime for ages 0-12 months (Prewalkers)



Fri., April 15th 10:00 AM

A low-key interactive program of simple stories, songs, and rhymes for about 15 minutes, followed by a 10 minute "playtime."

Celebrate *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* in a Spanish Storytime with Claudia (in Spanish)



Fri., April 29th 10:00 AM

El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), known as Día, is a celebration EVERY DAY of children, families, and reading that culminates every year on April 29.

The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

**Story times are drop-in—no registration required.**

**All children must be accompanied by an adult.**

Sing-Along with Ed Morgan

Fri., April 8th 3:00 PM



For children 2 years and up accompanied by an adult. This is a drop-in program—please arrive on time.

Ready, Set...Move with Cici Hunt: for ages 3-5\*\*



Tues., April 5th 11:00 AM

Fri., April 22nd 11:00 AM

Join Cici Hunt in this fun-filled music and movement class for children and their caretakers.

**\*\*Registration is required, one session per month only please.**

Music, Movement and Me with Sara Epstein\*\*



Fri., April 8th 10:30 AM

Tues., April 12th 10:30 AM

An interactive music and movement program for adults and children under 4. **\*\*Registration required—maximum 20 children & accompanying adult.**



Lucy the R.E.A.D. Dog: for ages 3 and up\*\*



Wed., April 6th 10:00 AM

Join Lucy, a black lab, and Pat Howes (recently retired first grade teacher at Newman) for a great program that encourages children to read!

**\*\*Registration required. Begins one week prior to program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Needham**

**Public Library.**

## *April Craft & Special Events*

Drop-In "Crafts of the Month" for ages 2-5 years



Fri., April 1st 10:00 AM

Drop-In "Crafts of the Month" for ages 2-6 years



Thurs., April 7th 4:00 PM

"Crafts of the Month" programs focus on authors and other people born this month and/or other special days in April. We will have 4-5 related crafts.

Drop-In "Spring Sports" Crafts for ages 2-6 years



Tues., April 19th 4:00 PM

Drop-In "Alphabet Day" Crafts

Thurs., April 21st

"Alphabet Day" Crafts include "Poetry Month" and "National Library Week" Crafts.

4:00 PM



Drop-In "Earth Day" Crafts for ages 2-6 years



Thurs., April 28th 4:00 PM

Crafts include the "Week of the Ocean," "World Habitat Awareness Month," "Arbor Day," and "Wildlife Week," all special April observances.

Drop-In Craft Programs usually last for approximately 45 minutes, depending upon your child(ren). Four or five crafts related to the theme will be offered for our creative young patrons.

## **Toddler Movies**



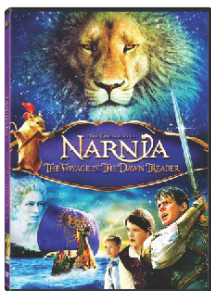
**Thurs., April 7, 14, 21 11:00 AM**

Due to popular response, we will continue to show Toddler Movies—films based on storybooks—in the Community Room.

**Children's Movie: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (Rated PG - 113 minutes)**

**Friday, April 22nd**

**2:00 PM**



*Return to the magic and wonder of C. S. Lewis' epic world in this third installment of the beloved Chronicles of Narnia fantasy-adventure series. When Lucy and Edmund Pensive, along with their cousin Eustace, are swallowed into a painting and transported back to Narnia, they join King Caspian and a noble mouse named Reepicheep aboard the magnificent ship*

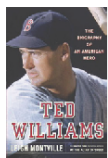
*The Dawn Treader. The courageous voyagers travel to mysterious islands, confront mystical creatures, and reunite with the Great Lion Aslan and a mission that will determine the fate of Narnia itself!*

**Trustee Pick of the Month**



This month's trustee recommendations are from Tom Harkins. Since the Red Sox home opener is April 8th he has selected some of his Boston baseball favorite reads.

*The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth*  
*Ted Williams: The Biography of an American Hero*



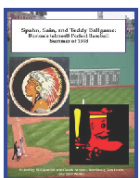
Leigh Montville, former Boston Globe and Sports Illustrated writer, has authored these very readable and thoroughly researched biographies of two Hall of Famers whose major league careers began and ended in Boston (I believe Ruth may also have played elsewhere). These books are also available as CD sound recordings.

*Best Bet in Beantown* (1897 season))  
*Squeeze Play in Beantown* (1899 season)  
*Double Play in Beantown* (1901 season)  
*Foul Ball in Beantown* (1918 season)

G.S. Rowe has written a series of mysteries featuring Will Beaman, amateur detective and baseball team employee, as he solves murder cases during the early years of Boston major league baseball. (The NFPL is the only member of the Minuteman Library Network to own copies of this series.)



*'75 the Red Sox Team that Saved Baseball*  
*The 1967 Impossible Dream Red Sox: Pandemonium on the Field*  
*Spahn, Sain, and Teddy Ballgame: Boston's (almost) Perfect Baseball Summer of 1948*



These three works contain biographical profiles of the players, managers, coaches, etc. who made three Boston baseball seasons truly worth remembering. (Disclaimer: I contributed a profile to each book: Dick Drago for '75; Russ Gibson for '67; and Jim Prendergast for '48.)

***April Book Discussions***

**NPL Book Group**

**Tuesday, April 12th**

**1:00 PM**

***Little Bee***

**by Chris Cleave**

*Sarah Summers is enjoying a holiday on a Nigerian beach when a young girl named Little Bee crashes irrevocably into her life. All it takes is a brief and horrifying moment of crisis — a terrifying scene that no reader will forget. Afterwards, Sarah and Little Bee might expect never to see each other again. But Little Bee finds Sarah's husband's wallet in the sand, and smuggles herself on board a cargo vessel with his address in mind. She spends two years in detention in England before making her way to Sarah's house, with what will prove to be devastating timing...*



**NPL Evening Book Group**

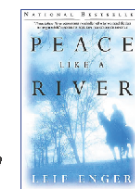
**Wednesday, April 27th**

**7:00 PM**

***Peace Like a River***

**by Leif Enger**

*In the winter of his 11th year, two schoolyard bullies break into the Lands' house, and Rube's big brother Davy guns them down with a Winchester. Shortly after his arrest, Davy breaks out of jail and goes on the lam. Swede is Rube's younger sister, a precocious writer who crafts rhymed epics of romantic Western outlawry. Shortly after Davy's escape, Rube, Swede, and their father, a widowed school custodian, hit the road too, swerving this way and that across Minnesota and North Dakota, determined to find their lost outlaw Davy. In the end it's not Rube who haunts the reader's imagination, it's his father, torn between love for his outlaw son and the duty to do the right, honest thing.*



**This Month in the Friend's Gallery  
Needham Open Studios**

***Library Hours:***

***Mon. - Thurs.***

***9:00am - 9:00pm***

***Fridays***

***9:00am - 5:30pm***

***Saturdays***

***9:00am - 5:00pm***

***Sundays***

***1:00pm - 5:00pm***



# Upcoming Events...

## Magic & Beyond with Magician David Garrity

Saturday, May 14

3:00 PM

Magic & Beyond is a one-man illusion show that features unique, theatrical and visual magic, audience participation, comedy and a custom-edited musical sound track. In this performance, you will see a table mysteriously float, objects that appear and disappear in the blink of an eye and witness the difficult and suspenseful "Straightjacket Challenge!" Sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.



## Waterfall Production's Courtship Tea starring Rita Parisi

Sunday, May 15

2:00 PM



Courtship during Victorian times was the only acceptable way young ladies and gentleman could get acquainted with each other. As the character of Mrs. Gordon, a middle class lady from 1908, Rita will recount how her husband courted her during the 1890's as well as discuss a "new" trend called dating. Rita Parisi has been entertaining audiences for over 14 years in the New England area. In 2002, she founded Waterfall Productions to create shows that highlight her passion for theatre as well as history, literature and costuming. She has had the pleasure of performing these shows all over New England. The Needham Free Public Library is delighted to welcome her back with another one of her Teas in Time productions. This event is sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.

*Thanks to the Friends of the Needham Public Library for providing financial assistance in the production of this Newsletter.*

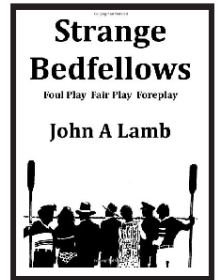
## Local Author John A. Lamb – Strange Bedfellows: Foul Play Fair Play Foreplay

Tuesday, May 17

7:30 PM

*Ever wonder what happens to your trash? You might be surprised to know the government sent some on an all expense-paid Southern cruise. Strange Bedfellows is not that ship's log but while truth is often stranger than fiction, it's rarely as much fun.*

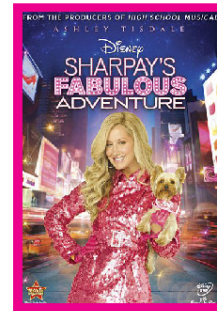
*So come aboard and meet tugboat captain Elliot, investigative reporter Alexandra, and a motley assortment of politicians, social-climbers, and crooks. John A. Lamb was born in 1921 and raised during the depression of the 1930s. He worked as a private investigator and assembled machine guns before joining the Air Corps to navigate B-24 Bombers in World War II. Employed by B.B.D. & O and Young & Rubicam advertising agencies, he later joined Arthur D. Little consultants, and subsequently cofounded an investment banking firm. At retirement, he studied painting before returning to his earlier interest in writing. He is the author of an autobiography and two previous novels.*



## Children's Movie: Sharpay's Fabulous Adventure (Rated: NR, 89 minutes)

Friday, May 27

3:30 PM



*Just how fabulous do you have to be to make it big in the Big Apple? One aspiring diva is about to find out...the hard way! After a talent scout spots her performing with her dog Boi at a charity gala, Sharpay Evans sets off for the bright lights of NYC, convinced instant fame and fortune are in the bag (designer bag, that is). But theatre is a dog-eat-dog world, as she and Boi discover when they encounter the devious owner of a pampered pooch named "Countess" and a scheming Broadway starlet who will do anything to crush the competition. Fortunately, Sharpay also meets Peyton, a handsome student filmmaker who finds Sharpay nearly as fascinating as she finds herself.*

For further information about upcoming events, go to [www.needhamma.gov/library](http://www.needhamma.gov/library).