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...

**Trio Con Brio**
Sun., December 5th  2:00 PM

Come celebrate an afternoon of classical music with flutists Wendy Vignaux and Laura Wilkin and cellist Suzanne Friedrich. Sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.

**Keith Michael Johnson’s *The Secret World of Bubbles***
Sat., December 11th  10:30 AM

You’ve never seen bubbles like this before... As big as a rainbow colored bathtub wobbling 10-feet off the ground with a liquid skin thinner than the wavelength of light. Bubbles will bounce, divide and sometimes even swallow you whole if you give them the chance. Even ordinary bubbles are extraordinary. The Secret World of Bubbles is packed with state-of-the-art bubble sculpture: kinetic and ephemeral, miniscule and mammoth. The bubbles’ mission is to share your attention and make you wonder, “How is that possible?” This program is sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.

**Genealogy 101 with Judith Lucey**
Sun., December 12th  2:00 PM

Do you know who you are? Have you always wanted to learn more about your family? Shows like NBC’s “Who Do You Think You Are?” starring Brooke Shields and Sarah Jessica Parker have created new interest in genealogy, but the shows make searches look deceptively easy.

Judith Lucey, Assistant Archivist at the New England Historic Genealogical Society on Newbury Street, will show you how to begin your genealogical search by using Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest Online, databases at the Needham library. This program is sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.

**New Years Needham 2011 @ the Library**
Friday, December 31st

10:00 AM  Pumpernickel Puppets - Peter Rabbit
11:00 AM  Pumpernickel Puppets - Peter Rabbit
1:00 PM  Storyteller Johanna Sweet
2:00 PM  Storyteller Johanna Sweet
3:00 PM  Magician Chris Bolter
3:45 PM  Magician Chris Bolter
4:30 PM  Magician Chris Bolter

For further information about upcoming events, go to www.needhamma.gov/
What’s happening this month in the Children’s Room...

**Children’s Programs in December**

Drop-in Storytime for ages 5 and under

- Wed., December 1, 15, 22, 29 10:00 AM
- Fri., December 3, 17 10:30 AM
Stories, music, movement and more for 30 minutes.

Spanish Storytime with Claudia -

Drop-In Storytime for ages 5 and under

- Fri., December 3rd 10:00 AM
Featuring a Spanish storytime by Claudia

Baby Laptine for ages 0-12 months (Prewalkers)

- Fri., December 17th 10:00 AM
A low-key interactive program of simple stories, songs, and rhymes for about 15 minutes, followed by a 15 minute “playtime.”

Story times are drop-in—no registration required. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sing-Along with Ed Morgan

- Fri., December 10th 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**

- Wed., December 8th 11:00 AM
- Mon., December 20th 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**

- Tues., December 7th 10:30 AM
- Tues., December 14th 10:30 AM
An interactive music and movement program for adults and children under 4.

**Registration required - max. 20 children & accompanying adult.

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

- Thur., December 9th 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 and begins one week prior to program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.

**Toddler Movies**

- Thurs., December 9, 23 11:00 AM
Due to popular response, we will continue to show Toddler Movies – films based on storybooks—in the Community Room.

**December Craft & Special Events**

Paper Play ages 2 and up

- Thurs., December 9th 3:00 - 4:30 PM
- Thurs., December 16th 3:00 - 4:30 PM
Stop by and make cards, paper gifts and envelopes.

Drop-In December Crafts for ages 2 - 6 years

- Thurs., December 2nd 10:00 AM
- Thurs., December 2nd 4:00 PM
Join us for this fun drop-in craft program!

Great Board Games for ages 4 and up

- Tues., December 28th 3:00 - 4:30 PM
Join us in playing a variety of different board games.

Drop-In End of the Year Leftovers — Craft Projects for ages 2 - 6 years

- Thurs., December 30th 3:00 - 4:30 PM
Stop by and make some of our leftover craft projects.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**
Children’s Movie: Despicable Me
(Rated PG - 95 minutes)

Wed., December 29th  2:00 PM

Despicable Me is a compelling animated comedy about an aging super villain’s falling popularity at the hands of a younger super villain and three young orphan girls. Gru is a true, bad-to-the-core evildoer who’s earned the title of the world’s No. 1 super villain, but when young upstart Vector steals the Pyramid of Giza, Gru’s status suddenly sinks to No. 2. Gru counters his fall by speeding up his plan to shrink and steal the moon, enlisting the help of his army of minions and the elderly Dr. Nefario, but a lack of funding and the difficulties involved in stealing the needed shrink-ray gun threaten to derail everything. Adopting three young orphan girls is an unlikely, but seemingly effective means to further Gru’s evil mission, but Gru quickly discovers that caring for three young girls is more work and distraction than he could ever have anticipated. What unfolds is an unexpected shift in attitude that will forever change the lives of Gru, Vector, and all three young girls.

December Book Discussions

NPL Book Group
Tuesday, December 14th  1:00 PM
Stoner
by John Williams

William Stoner is born at the end of the nineteenth century into a dirt-poor Missouri farming family. Sent to the state university to study agronomy, he instead falls in love with English literature and embraces a scholar’s life, so different from the hardscrabble existence he has known. And yet as the years pass, Stoner encounters a succession of disappointments: marriage into a “proper” family estranges him from his parents; his career is stymied; his wife and daughter turn coldly away from him; a trans-

forming experience of new love ends under threat of scandal. Driven ever deeper within himself, Stoner rediscovers the stoic silence of his forebears and confronts an essential solitude. John Williams’s luminous and deeply moving novel is a work of quiet perfection. William Stoner emerges from it not only as an archetypal American, but as an unlikely existential hero, standing, like a figure in a painting by Edward Hopper, in stark relief against an unforgiving world.

NPL Evening Book Group
Wednesday, December 15th  7:00 PM
Lucky Jim
by Kingsley Amis

Jim Dixon has accidentally fallen into a job at one of Britain’s new red brick universities. A moderately successful future in the history department beckons—as long as Jim can survive a madrigal-singing weekend at Professor Welch’s, deliver a lecture on “Merrie England,” and resist Christine, the hopelessly desirable girlfriend of Welch’s awful son Bertrand.

This Month in the Friend’s Gallery

Vera Kaufman
Nature’s Seasons

and in the Display Cases

Shirley Pratt
Accessories from a Bygone Era

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...

Needham Author Miriam Kronish -
Quickly: The Magic Spatula
Sat., January 8th 
10:30 AM
Co-written with fellow educator
Jeryl Abelmans, former Hillside
School Principal Miriam Kronish
brings the enchanting story of
Quickly: The Magic Spatula to life.
This warm childhood memory
describes a touching family story.
Quickly is discovered in the upstairs attic in an old
dusty box. This seemingly magical spatula brings the
warmth of Mommy’s kitchen to life. What is the real
secret of Mommy’s Sunday morning pancakes? How
did Quickly get its name? A story for children of all
ages, Quickly will bring a smile to your lips and tug
at your heart. This universal story celebrates those
heartfelt family moments that become treasured
with time. Come and join us for this unique family
presentation.

Wingmasters Presents The World of Owls
Sat., January 22nd 
3:00 PM
Owls are not evil spirits, wise little
philosophers or Walt Disney cre-
ations. Nor do they wing about
carrying messages, despite the way
they’re depicted in the Harry Potter
books. In fact, owls are probably
more misunderstood than any other
kind of bird. These are hunting
birds, yet their sharp beaks and talons are partly hid-
dden under feathers. Owls have more and softer feathers
than other birds, and this unique plumage gives them
a plump, rounded look. Add an upright posture and
huge eyes set in front like ours, and you have what looks
irresistibly like a small, bemused person wearing a
fur coat. In reality, owls are superbly adapted noctur-
nal hunters. This program, for ages 5 and up, shows
how owls use their specialized powers of sight, hearing
and flight to survive and thrive. A wealth of fact and
folklore about these masters of the dark explains the
natural and unnatural history of owls. A variety of live
owls provides the focus of the presentation.

This program is sponsored by the Library Foundation
of Needham.

Dr. Alan Hirshfeld Speaks about Eureka
Man: The Life and Legacy of Archimedes
Sun., January 23rd 
2:00 PM

The millennia since Archimedes lived
seem to fade away in the telling of his
story by Hirshfeld, Professor of Phys-
ics at the University of Massachusetts,
Dartmouth. Archimedes was ac-
nowledged as brilliant by his third
century B.C. peers. Today, his mathe-
ematical understanding of basics, such as buoyancy, le-
vers, and screws, is taken for granted,
but still applied. Professor Hirshfeld
shows the relationship between sen-
sational feats credited to Archimedes
in the ancient world, and modern
marvels, such as mechanical cardiac
assist systems or wastewater treat-
ment plants.

Professor Hirshfeld is also the author of The Electric
Life of Michael Faraday and Parallax: The Race to
Measure the Cosmos. Sponsored by the Friends of the
Needham Public Library.

Children’s Movie: Disney’s The Sorcerer’s
Apprentice (Rated PG - 109 minutes)
Fri., January 21st 
3:30 PM

Who doesn’t wish they could
unleash fire from their fingertips
and make mops come to life? The
Sorcerer’s Apprentice enjoyably
captures this fantasy as a young
physics student named Dave learns
that he’s the inheritor of the pow-
ers of Merlin—and suddenly finds
himself in the middle of a war between two of Merlin’s
protégés, Balthazar and Horvath.

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