Welcome to Library Notes, a monthly publication of the Needham Free Public Library. Each month we’ll give you a synopsis of the monthly goings-on and events happening at the Library, as well as highlighting ongoing services.....

January Events in the Community Room at the Needham Free Public Library...

Saturday, January 5th  10:30 AM
Bubblemania! : Comedy with a Drip! featuring bubbleman extraordinaire Casey Carle
International Soap Bubble Artist, Casey Carle, creates an event loaded with visual art, quick wit, swing music and amazing soap bubble manipulations - from stunning bubble sculpture to trapping people inside bubbles! With over 1,500 performances since 1992, Mr. Carle is the Soap Bubble Consultant to Cirque du Soleil & co-author of the award winning book “BubbleOlogy”. You will be both amazed and amused by this program for ages 5-95. This program is sponsored by The Library Foundation of Needham.

Sunday, January 13th  2:00 PM
Two Bostons: Ours and the Mother Town in England
Will Holton, Ph.D., President of The Partnership of the Historic Bostons and Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Northeastern University, will be speaking on the “ties that bind us to our mother town”. As an adjunct to this talk, the Needham Public Library will have on display on the second floor, for the months of January & February 2008, the “Botolph’s Town” Kiosk. The kiosk features photographs of St. Botolph’s Church in Boston, England, and of documents, buildings, and objects relating to the founding of Boston, MA. This program is sponsored by The Library Foundation of Needham.

Ongoing Activities....

Appearing this month in the Friends’ Gallery:
Photographer Mickey Goldin - “High Performance: Action, Sports, Performing Arts & Travel Highlights”

Display Cases:

Traditional Japanese Embroidery: Study Opportunities - Merrimack Valley Chapter Embroiderer’s Guild of America

Tuesday, January 8th  1:00 PM
NPL Book Group
This month’s selection:
The Memorykeeper’s Daughter by Kim Edwards
A doctor delivers his own twins, and upon seeing that the daughter has Down Syndrome, tells his nurse to take the baby to an institution and never reveal the secret. The nurse disappears into another city to raise the child herself in this tale of redemptive love and long-buried secrets that unfolds over a quarter of a century.

Wednesday, January 16th  7:00 PM
NPL Evening Book Group
This month’s selection:
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
Winner-2000 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
A Great Books Foundation Selection
Navigating between the Indian traditions they’ve inherited and the baffling new world, the characters in Jhumpa Lahiri’s elegant, touching stories seek love beyond the barriers of culture and generations. In “A Temporary Matter,” published in The New Yorker, a young Indian-American couple faces the heartbreak of a stillborn birth while their Boston neighborhood copes with a nightly blackout. In the title story, an interpreter guides an American family through the India of their ancestors and hears an astonishing confession. Lahiri writes with deft cultural insight reminiscent of Anita Desai and a nuanced depth that recalls Mavis Gallant. She is an important and powerful new voice.

For further information about upcoming events, go to www.needhamma.gov/library.
Children’s Department
January Storytimes

Lap-sit Baby Book Time - for ages up to 2 1/2
Wed., Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 10:00 - 10:20 AM
Introduce your baby to the fun of books and words with stories, fingerplays, and sing-alongs.

Toddler Time for ages 2 1/2 and up
Thurs., Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 10:00 - 10:20 AM
Combines music, movement and stories.

Story times are drop-in - no registration required. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Storytimes start PROMPTLY at 10:00 AM - please arrive on time.

January Crafts

Drop-in Story/Craft - ages 2 1/2 and above
Thursday, January 10 & 24 3:45 - 4:15 PM
No Registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

CreativeKids - for ages 5 and up
Thursday, January 31st 3:45 - 4:15 PM
Registration begins on January 17, limit 12. Adults not required to accompany child. Younger siblings can not be accommodated.

Friday, January 25th 3:15 PM
Children’s Movie: High School Musical 2
(Rated G-111 minutes)
School is out, and Troy and Gabriella are looking forward to a summer to remember, but Troy also needs to make bank so he can go to college. As it turns out, Sharpay, the self-proclaimed primo girl of East High, has her eye on primo-boy Troy, and gets him a job at the country club her parents own. It looks great for Troy when Gabriella and the rest of the Wildcats are hired also, but when he gets preferential treatment from the club manager and others, it puts all of his relationships in hot water.

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 - February 2008

Saturday, February 10th 2:00 PM
Author David Alan Grier: When Computers Were Human

When Computers Were Human is the sad but lyrical story of workers who gladly did the hard labor of research calculation in the hope that they might be part of the scientific community. In the end, they were rewarded by a new electronic machine that took the place and the name of those who were, once, the computers. David Alan Grier is Associate Professor in the Center for International Science and Technology Policy at George Washington University. This Program is sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.

Saturday, February 23rd 10:30 AM
Children’s Singer Wayne Potash

Winner of the coveted 2007 Parents’ Choice Music Award, his recordings are featured on children’s radio programs across the country, and feature a unique blend of folk, bluegrass, pop, and blues. Wayne will be presenting his Music Fun show, featuring the wildly popular Shy Shark and All Around the Kitchen! This Program is sponsored by The Library Foundation of Needham.

Sunday, February 24th 2:00 PM
2008 McIver Series

Devena Theatre Company: Lizzie Borden and the 40 Whacks

On a scorching hot day in Fall River, back in August of 1892, a heinous crime occurred. Spinster Lizzie Borden was accused, tried, and acquitted for the vicious ax murders of her father and stepmother. This true unsolved mystery has fascinated people for over 100 years. Two people died on that day in 1892, but Lizzie continues to live on in American folklore. An edutainment production, the show will feature Lynne Moulton and Joseph Zamparelli, Jr. in multiple roles. The performance includes a mock trial that invites the audience to participate by questioning Lizzie, deciding her guilt or innocence, and imparting a sentence, if appropriate. Did she or didn’t she? You will be the judge... Sponsored by the Trustees of the Needham Library.

Tuesday, February 26th 7:30 PM
The Loss of the U.S.S. Quincy - Bob Begin

A multimedia presentation of the sinking of the U.S.S. Quincy during WWII with follow-up on how this affected the survivors and their families.