



LIBRARY NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEEDHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

APRIL 2021 ISSUE

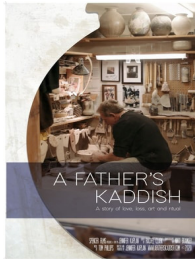
Filmmaker Jen Kaplan—*A Father's Kaddish*

Tues., April 20th

7:00 PM

Jen Kaplan, a local filmmaker, recently finished a new film entitled "*A Father's Kaddish*." The film tells the poignant story of how one father uses art to grieve the loss of his son.

In 2005, Jared Branfman died of brain cancer at the age of 23. A week after his death, his father, Steve Branfman, a potter and teacher, went into his studio, took some clay and made a chawan, a Japanese style tea bowl. Each day for one year, he made one chawan—they were the only pots he made. Steve's daily chawan made at his wheel was his own personal Kaddish (the traditional Jewish prayer of mourning).



For almost a decade, these 365 bowls sat unfinished on shelves in his studio. After nine years of mourning, Steve glazed and fired the chawans, bringing them to life with color and sheen. According

to Kaplan, "It was like Steve was finally able to start a new chapter in his grief process. As a filmmaker, I felt humbled to capture his heart-wrenching process."

Steven Branfman who lives in Newton, is the founder of a studio in Needham (Gorse Mills Studios) and teaches at Thayer Academy in Braintree. We will be streaming the documentary and hosting a conversation afterwards. *Sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.*

*Registration for these programs is required on Assabet to receive the Zoom link. Register here at <https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>

Boston Sunday Globe columnist Beverly Beckham— "Evolution of a Columnist"

Sun., April 25th

2:00 PM



How does a columnist transform observations of everyday life into essays that move and enlighten readers—week after week, and year after year? Beckham examines themes that spring from the daily lives of her family, friends, readers and herself. With insight and clarity, she makes them relevant to everyone. Curious and observant, she examines a wide range of contemporary issues and presents them in thought-provoking ways to make them personal. Some of her recent columns are "*The Summer of Covid-19 Fed My Soul, But Broke My Heart*," and "*Why Isn't Kindness News?*" Her 15-year-old column about becoming an empty nester, "*I Was the Sun, the Kids Were My Planets*," is so popular that it has been republished many times. Beckham finds inspiration in talking with her audiences and hopes attendees will come with plenty of questions. *This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.*

Needham Free Public Library Expands its Technology Lending With its Wi-Fi Hotspot Pilot Program

Needham Free Public Library is introducing its Wi-Fi Hotspot Lending pilot program. These devices can be requested through our curbside services. The program allows Library customers to check out active Wi-Fi hotspots that provide mobile access to the internet. Many Needham residents look to the Library for free Internet access and our expanded technology lending pilot program will allow even more Library customers to use our services without having to travel to our Library's two parking lots to access the Library's wireless Internet. Digital inclusion is a strategic priority for the Needham Free Public Library, and an important part of the Library's vision for equal access to all. The Wi-Fi HotSpot Lending pilot program: supports students and their parents by providing access to educational resources, supports job seekers by providing access to employment information and resources, and bridges the digital divide in low- to moderate-income families.



A limited number of devices are available at the main library for check-out. Additional devices and locations will be added as funding becomes available. (There are currently five Wi-Fi hotspots available for lending out.) *The Friends of the Needham Public Library have generously funded this pilot program. Call 781-455-7559 x202, starting April 1st, to request a hotspot for a two week loan period.*

This Month in the Virtual Friends' Gallery

Needham Open Studios

go to <http://www.needhamma.gov/3168/>
for our virtual slideshow

Children's Virtual Programs in April



Music with Stacey Peasley for ages 2-5

Wed., April 7th 10:00 AM

Mon., April 12th 10:00 AM



Sing-Along with Ed

Fri., April 9th 10:00 AM

Thurs., April 15th 10:00 AM

Lego Club with Veronica and Marianna

Wed., April 21st @3:00 PM

Build and share Lego creations for kindergarten and older.



Preschool Palooza—Wed., April 14th, 21st and 28th @ 10:00 AM

Join Ms. Elise for stories, song, and movement.

Yoga for Kids with Lyn Jekowsky—Saturday, April 10th @ 10:00 AM

A 30-minute set of yoga for young children and their families. No experience necessary—all levels welcome for ages 5 and up.



Read to Tucker the Reading Dog

Build confidence in reading with Tucker the popular therapy dog. Tuesday, April 6th and 13th at 3:00 PM. Individual 15-minute reading sessions for kindergarten and older.

Dance Me a Story

Tues., April 20th

10:00 AM

Join Princess Lisa from the Joanne Langione Dance Center for an enchanting tale and dance for ages 1 to 5.



Needham Young Coders

Explore basic computer science concepts as well as introductory coding in the programming language Java. No prior experience is necessary!

Who: Aspiring coders grades 3 to 6

What: Free virtual CS lessons

When: 6:00 PM on Mondays (no class on April 19th)

STEM Kits

Pea Growing Kit

Donated by the Needham Community Farm for ages 6 and up, the week of April 5th while supplies last.



Chemistry Kit

Seven unique experiments involving a chemical reaction for ages 8 and up, available the week of April 20th while supplies last. Kits donated by Mass Cultural Council.



Programs

Grow Peas with the Needham Community Farm

Thurs., April 15th

4:00 PM

Join NC Farmers over Zoom to learn how to grow your peas!



Little Labcoats—Cooking!

Mon., April 19th

6:00 PM



Understand the science behind taste, what makes food delicious, and unique ways chefs use science to create edible masterpieces. For grades 3 to 6.

Howie Newman's Musical Baseball Show

Tues., April 20th

2:30 PM

Baseball songs, stories, and trivia from Howie's days as a sportswriter on the Red Sox beat for the *Associated Press* and *Boston Globe*—for ages 5 and up. Sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.



HAPPY EARTH DAY
APRIL 22ND

Registration begins two weeks before events.

Go to <https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>

to register for these sessions.

April 2021 Book Clubs on ZOOM

NPL Book Group Tuesday, April 13th

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scrape for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome's got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter.

Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachians and suspicion as deep as the holler.

*Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home. Please email neemail1@minlib.net if you wish to have your email address added to our monthly Zoom link mailing. *May 11, 2021—*The Library Book* by Susan Orlean**

1:00 PM



The Bookworm's Evening Book Club Monday, April 26th

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah

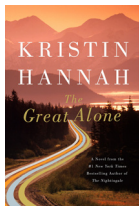
Cora will do anything for the man she loves, even if it means following him into the unknown. Thirteen-year-old Leni, caught in the riptide of her parents' passionate, stormy relationship, has little choice but to go along, daring to hope this new land promises her family a better future.

In a wild, remote corner of Alaska, the Allbrights find a fiercely independent community of strong men and even stronger women. The long, sunlit days and the generosity of the locals make up for the newcomers' lack of preparation and dwindling resources. But as winter approaches and darkness descends, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates. Soon the perils outside pale in comparison to threats from within. In their small cabin, covered in snow, blanketed in eighteen hours of night, Leni and her mother learn the terrible truth: they are on their own.

**May 24, 2021—Help Choose Next Year's Titles. *Registration required on Assabet to receive the Zoom link. Register here at:*

<https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>

7:00-8:00 PM



NEEDHAM COMIC BOOK CLUB!

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 7:00 - 8:00pm

Location: Virtually via Zoom

Reading: *They Called Us Enemy*
Written By: George Takei

Come join us for this month's book discussion as a group

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon -- and America itself -- in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

Join us on this Third Thursday as we discuss this month's Non-Fiction Graphic Novel around the Zoom screen with friends. Participants must register to receive the Zoom link. For more info contact Erin Bassett at ebassett@minlib.net

Copies of this month's title available for request from Minuteman Libraries and digitally through Hoopla!

Virtual Meeting for Ages 14 +

Register Online <https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/2021-april/>



Diversity and Discussion Book Club

Co-sponsored by the Trustees of the Needham Free Public Library, Needham Diversity Initiative & Needham Human Rights Committee

Don't Ask Me Where I'm From by Jennifer De Leon Thurs., April 22th 7:00 PM

Liliana Cruz is hitting a wall—or rather, walls.

There's the wall her mom has put up ever since Liliana's dad left—again.

There's the wall that delineates Liliana's diverse inner-city Boston neighborhood from Westburg, the wealthy—and white—suburban high school she's just been accepted into.

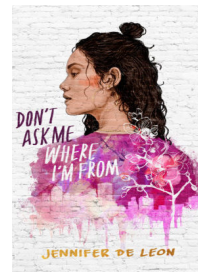
And there's the wall Liliana creates within herself, because to survive at Westburg, she can't just lighten up, she has to whiten up.

So what if she changes her name? So what if she changes the way she talks? So what if she's seeing her neighborhood in a different way? But then light is shed on some hard truths: It isn't that her father doesn't want to come home—he can't...and her whole family is in jeopardy. And when racial tensions at school reach a fever pitch, the walls that divide feel insurmountable.

But a wall isn't always a barrier. It can be a foundation for something better. And Liliana must choose: Use this foundation as a platform to speak her truth, or risk crumbling under its weight.

This discussion on Zoom will be facilitated by Jenn Scheck-Kahn. Author Jennifer de Leon will be joining the discussion. Registration is required at:

<https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>



Teen/Tween & Adult Craft Activities for April

Teens & Adults (Ages 15+) Craft & Chat Program!

A VIRTUAL PROGRAM FOR AGES 15 & UP!

FIRST THURSDAYS FROM 7:30 - 9 PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO GET LINK

Register Online for Each Program:
<https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>

Contact Erin at neeya@minlib.net with questions!

Weekly Program: Tween Craft & Chat Hour!

A VIRTUAL PROGRAM FOR AGES 10 - 12

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:30 - 4:30 PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO GET LINK

Register Online for Each Program:
<https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>

Contact Erin at neeya@minlib.net with questions!

Take and Make: Fleece Piggy Banks for Money Smart Week!

A Craft at Home Program for Ages 10 + (yes, Adults - you too!)



The Young Adult Librarian, Erin, has another craft for tweens, teens, & adults! Register for this program to bring home a bag for yourself to be completed on your own time :) Are you 10 or older? Like to sew? Have some extra change just hanging around you don't know what to do with? Register for this easy sew piggy bank craft kit!

Sign ups open Monday, March 22 and will remain open until filled (limited to first 50) or until April 14. Materials needed will be provided in the kits.

Pickups and distribution for Craft Kits during the week of Monday, April 12 - 17th



- Kits include:
 - 2 pieces of fleece fabric already cut
 - Small sewing kit
 - Small strip of velcro (to be used - or not - depending on how you want to assemble your pig)
 - Printed fun facts and information sheets / instructions to be able to complete projects safely

Register Here: <https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/2021-april/>

Virtual Office Hours

with Erin Bassett,
Needham Free Public Library, Young Adult Librarian

Between the ages of 10 and 18? Looking for some advice on what to read next? Need some help with something? Just want to chat? Join our Young Adult Librarian for a one-on-one help session via Zoom!

Please note: all conversations will be held one at a time, so you may be in our waiting room for a bit as we bring in people one by one. Conversations will be kept short if there are people waiting. Please be patient with us as we navigate a new system of helping!

Registration required to receive Zoom link information.

To register and find out what days and times are being offered, check out our Program Calendar Here:

<https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>

Upcoming Virtual Event

Needham Author Tom Keating—*Yesterday's Soldier: A Passage from Prayer to the Vietnam War*

Mon., May 17th

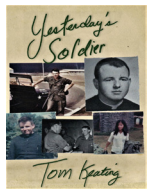
7:00 PM

The Vietnam War will be long remembered in American history. The controversial conflict lasted eleven years, and we have images of that war in television and film that sum up the battles: helicopters swooping down, large explosions, burning huts, soldiers shooting into jungle growth.

But there was another war, a war in the support bases that fed that combat. Huge bases filled with everything needed for combat, including hospitals and coffins. Men and women processing and shipping all manner of goods while under rocket and mortar shelling.



Tom Keating is a veteran of that war and has written this unique memoir titled, "Yesterday's Soldier: A Passage from Prayer to the Vietnam War." The book tells the story of his struggle with the Army, his family, and the Church during this time when, as a highly trained and skilled infantry soldier and officer candidate, he suddenly realizes he could not kill another person and declares his Conscientious Objection. The Army wanted him in jail, his family was against his decision, and his Catholic Church tried to convince him that killing communists was just. His Vietnam War is different from what we think of the Vietnam War, but it was still a war... Sponsored by the Needham Free Public Library.



*Registration for this program is required on Assabet to receive the Zoom link.

Register here at <https://needhamma.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/>

APRIL

Needham Free Public Library

1139 Highland Avenue

781-455-7559 x204

neechild@minilib.net



Library Hours

**Pick-up and
Phone Only**

Monday

9 am to 8:30 pm

Tuesday

to Friday

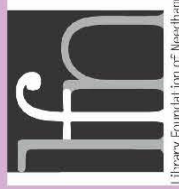
9 am to 5 pm

Saturday

9 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday Closed

Funding for special
events generously
provided by



Library Foundation of Needham

Registration Required for

Children's Events

www.needhamma.gov/3035

Events subject to change

Thursday Friday Saturday

1

2

3

National Find
a Rainbow Day



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

4



5

Needham Community
Farm Peas Kit
All Week
6 pm
Needham Young
Coders
Grades 3 to 6

6

3 pm Read to
Tucker
Grades K to 5

7

10 am
Music with
Stacey Peasley
ages 2 to 5

8

9

10 am
Sing Along
with Ed
ages 2 to 5

10

10 am
Yoga for Kids
with Lyn
Ages 5 to 10

11

10 am
Music with
Stacey Peasley
ages 2 to 5
6 pm
Needham Young
Coders
Grades 3 to 6

13

3 pm Read to
Tucker
Grades K to 5

14

10 am PreSchool
Palooza
Ages 3 to 5

15

10 am
Sing Along
with Ed
ages 2 to 5

16



17

18



19

**Closed for
Patriots Day**
6 pm
Little Labcoats
Cooking!
Grades 3 to 6

20

10 am
Dance Me
a Story
Ages 3 to 5
2:30 pm
Howie Newman's
Musical Baseball
Show Ages 5+

21

10 am PreSchool
Palooza
Ages 3 to 5
3 pm Lego Club
Grades K to 5

22

Earth Day



23

24

STEM Activity
Chemistry Kits
All Week

25

26

6 pm
Needham Young
Coders
Grades 3 to 6

27



28

10 am PreSchool
Palooza
Ages 3 to 5

29

30



SCAN ME

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Instagram**