



# LIBRARY NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEEDHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2019

## Ed Popielarczyk's Flea Circus

Tues., December 17th

4:00 PM

*What is a Flea Circus? It is an entire big top circus in miniature. Up first is Fifi, who performs on the high wire and trapeze! Then there is Bruno, the world's strongest flea who turns over a coin in a child's hand! Last but not least is Fernando, who does the high dive into a pool of water and gets shot out of a cannon and into a volunteer's hands!! The audience will be thrilled and amazed at these and other incredible demonstrations starring Ed's trained fleas.*



*Sponsored by the Library Foundation of Needham.*

## Movie: *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* (PG-13–2 hours, 10 minutes)

Tues., December 17th

7:00 PM



*Bernadette has a great life. At least, that's what it seems like. She's got a loving husband and a brilliant daughter. Something about it isn't satisfying to her, though. Despite it all, she finds herself longing for the creative passions of her younger years, when she was an acclaimed architect. In a sudden, life-changing decision, she disappears from home and begins work on an architectural project in Antarctica. The project is rife with difficulties: long nights and busy days, but as a mother, she's up for the challenge. This event is sponsored by the Needham Free Public Library.*

## Children's Movie: Disney/Pixar's *Toy Story 4* (Rated G–1 hour, 40 minutes)

Fri., December 27th

2:00 PM

*Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the rest of the gang embark on a road trip with Bonnie and a new toy named Forky. The adventurous journey turns into an unexpected reunion as Woody's slight detour leads him to his long-lost friend Bo Peep. As Woody and Bo discuss the old days, they soon start to realize that they're worlds apart when it comes to what they want from life as a toy. This event is sponsored by the Needham Free Public Library.*



## December Holiday Closings

December 24 - Library Closes at 1:00 PM

December 25 - Library Closed

December 31 - Library Closes at 5:30 PM

January 1, 2020 - Library Closed



## NEW YEAR'S NEEDHAM @

THE NEEDHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

Vanessa Trien and the  
Jumping Monkeys

10 - 10:40 AM

11 - 11:40 AM



*Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys joins this year's New Year's Needham celebration for an interactive, lively family song and dance party, the perfect way to ring in the New Year!*

*Vanessa's original songs and audience-participatory approach to her shows, mixed with infectious folk-pop-world sounds by some of Boston's best musicians and her warmth and humor on stage are a recipe for a perfect musical morning out with the family.*

Storyteller Diane Edgecomb

12:30 - 1:10 PM

1:30 - 2:20 PM



*Folktale Superheroes—What do China, Africa and South America all have in common? Superheroes!!!*

*Long before the Superheroes of today, people used their Super Imaginations to create folktales about beings with extraordinary powers who also passed on important lessons and values and always used their extraordinary powers for the good of all. From Anansi the entertaining Spider God from Africa who has web-spinning adventures just like Spiderman, to Tian the Lord of the Cranes from China who gives to the poor like Robin Hood, cultures around the world have always delighted in stories about good triumphing over wrong. Ninja Turtles stand back! Jabuti the flute-playing tortoise from the Amazon has a series of adventures, too. He even saves all the rainforest animals from a one-eyed, four-armed monster while teaching the audience how to sing a joyful song.*

Scott Jameson—Magic!

2:45 - 3:30 PM

4:00 - 4:45 PM



*Join magician and juggler Scott Jameson for an extraordinary performance that will have you laughing out loud and perched on the very edge of your seat. Umbrellas will be plucked from thin air, a drawing will come to life, basketballs will be spun and juggled, and the audience will travel through time. Don't miss it!*

*Events are Free of Charge and sponsored by Trustees of the Needham Free Public Library.*



## Library Hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Fridays

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Saturdays

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sundays

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Contact the Library at 781-455-7559



## December 2019

1139 Highlands Avenue  
Needham, MA 02494

Children's Department  
781-455-7559 Ext 204

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7
	10:00 am Preschool Palooza, 3—6 yrs <b>STR</b>	10:00 am Terrific Toddlers, 1-2 yrs <b>STR</b> 11:00 am Babies and Books, under 1 yr <b>STR</b> 6:30 pm Girls Who Code grd 5+, <b>STMC</b> *	10:00 am Make Music with Stacey Peasley, 2-5 yrs <b>CR</b>		10:30 am Learn & Play Drop-In, 0-5 yrs <b>CR</b>	10:00 am Storytime in Chinese, 2-5 yrs <b>STR</b>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	10:00 am Preschool Palooza, 3—6 yrs <b>STR</b> 3:45 pm Little Bits, ages 8+, R++, <b>STMC</b>	10:00 am Terrific Toddlers, 1-2 yrs <b>STR</b> 11:00 am Babies and Books, under 1 yr <b>STR</b> 6:30 pm Girls Who Code grd 5+, <b>STMC</b> *	10:00 am Child's Play, 0—2 yrs <b>STR</b> 4:00 pm Lego Club, 5+ yrs Drop-In <b>STMC</b>	10:00 am Preschool Craft Activity—Snowman Sequencing— ages 2+ <b>CRFT</b>	10:00 am Bee Bots, ages 3+, R++, <b>STMC</b> 3:00 pm Ed Morgan Sing-a-Long, ages 2+ <b>CR</b>	2:30 pm Read to Annie the Dog, Grades 1+, R++, <b>STR</b> 3:00 pm Bookventures Grades 3—5, <b>CFTR</b> R++
Celebrate Computer Science Week with an Hour of Code Activities						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	10:00 am Make Music with Stacey Peasley 2—5 yrs <b>CR</b>	10:00 am Terrific Toddlers, 1-2 yrs <b>STR</b> 11:00 am Babies and Books, under 1 yr <b>STR</b> 4:00 pm Ed Popielarczyk's Flea Circus <b>CR</b> 6:30 pm Girls Who Code grd 5+, <b>STMC</b> *	10:00 am Child's Play, 0—2 yrs <b>STR</b> 3:30 pm Read to Annie the Dog, Grades 1+, R++, <b>STR</b>	10:30 am Ed Morgan Sing-a-Long, ages 2+ <b>CR</b> 3:30 pm Afterschool Snowman Collages 6+ yrs <b>CFTR</b>	10:30 am Learn & Play Drop-In, 0-5 yrs <b>STR</b>	10:00 Family Activity, Paper Icicles, ages 2+, Drop-In <b>STMC</b>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	10:00 am Preschool Palooza, 3—6 yrs <b>STR</b>	Singing with Sarah 10:00 am 2—5 yrs <b>CR</b> 11:00 am 2 and under <b>CR</b> <b>Library Closes at 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Library Closed</b>		2:00 pm Movie: Toy Story 4, rated PG, <b>CR</b>	
29	30	31	<div>R++ = Registration Required, sign-ups begin two weeks before program * = Registration filled, no spots available</div>		<div>PROGRAM LOCATION: <b>CR</b> = Community Room <b>STR</b> = Story Time Room <b>STMC</b> = Steam Center <b>CFTR</b> = Craft Room</div>	
	10:00 am Preschool Palooza, 3—6 yrs <b>STR</b>	<b>Library Closes at 5:30 pm</b>				



# Children's Program Descriptions

## Drop-In Music Programs:



**Music with Sarah:** for children 5 and under

Drop-in for a musical treat with singing, instruments, movement and lots of fun.

**Make Music with Stacey Peasley:** for ages 2-5

Join Stacey Peasley in this fun-filled music and movement class for children and their caregivers.



**STEAM CENTER HOURS**

Mon, Wed, Thur 3:30-8:30

Tues, Friday 3:30-5:00

Saturday 9:00-4:30

Sunday 1:00-6:30

Early Release Days

1:00-8:30

Check out iPads

and codeapillers at

Children's Desk



**Book Clubs: Bookventurers for 3rd - 5th graders**

*The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*

Saturday, December 14, at 3:00 pm

Discussion, Snacks, and Story activities

**Registration Requested**

Books available at the Children's Desk



**Computer Science Week December 9-13**

Monday @ 3:45 pm Little Bits Electronic Building

Blocks, age 8+

Thursday @ 10 am Bee Bot Robots, age 3+

Registration Required!



## STORYTIMES:

Babies & Books—Birth to 11 months with an Adult Caregiver Drop-In

Babies and their adult caregivers enjoy songs, lap games, rhythm and sensory activities, with a story or two (20 minute storytime with following playtime)

Terrific Toddlers—1-2 years with an Adult Caregiver Drop-In

Stories mixed with songs, rhymes, fingerplays, rhythm and sensory activities.

Child's Play—0-2 with an Adult Drop-In

Songs, rhymes, lap games, books and more in this interactive program.

Pre-School Palooza—Ages 3-6

An interactive themed storytime with picture books, music and movement, followed by a craft. (45 min.) Children who are ready may attend independently. Caregivers are welcome to attend.

**Lego Club** December 11 at 4 pm

Practice pre-coding skills of planning and modeling while building Lego creations



## Family Activity Morning

**December 21 at 10 am**

Folded Paper Icicles

Make & Take Craft

All ages are welcome



**Preschool Crafts** Ages 2+

December 12 at 10 am

Snowman Sequencing

Make-and-Take crafts



## Ed Popielarczyk's Flea Circus

Tuesday, December 17, 4 pm

Come see Fifi perform on the high wire,

Bruno the world's strongest flea &

Fernando be shot from a cannon

For children ages 4 and up and families

## After School Activity

December 19 at 3:30pm

Puffy Painting

For ages 6+



## Build Confidence in

Reading with Annie

a trained therapy dog

Sign up for a 15 minute

time slot at the

Children's Desk



## Learn & Play Group

1st & 3rd Friday

10:30—11:15 am

December 6 & 20

Drop-in playgroups for

caregivers & children.

STEAM activities, literacy

& social play. Provided by

Family Access of Newton.

**Ages 0-5**



**Storytime in Chinese for Ages 2 to 5** Drop-in December 7th at 10:00 am

for a program and craft organized by the International

Chinese Reading Association

**Events subject to change. For more information contact: Needham Free Public Library Children's Department**

**781-455-7559, Ext 204. Visit all library programs online: [www.needhamma.gov/library](http://www.needhamma.gov/library)**



## Teens and 'Tweens Programs in December

### Teen/'Tween Shrinky Dinks Crafternoon

Thurs., December 5th 3:30-5:00 PM

Come one, come all (ages 10 - 18), and have some fun making your own Winter Holiday themed Shrinky Dink ornament collection! Draw on plastic sheets, and then heat it to make it shrink, to create your own holiday ornaments—what could be more fun? All craft supplies will be made available. Snacks and drinks provided to attendees too! No sign-ups are required for this fun afternoon. Crafts sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.



## BOOKVENTURERS

Karina Yan Glaser  
**THE VANDERBEEKERS**  
of 141st STREET  
"Stirring and exciting" — Linda the Park

Saturday,  
December 14  
3:00pm-4:00pm



The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. It's practically another member of the family. So when their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the landlord just how wonderful they are. And all is fair in love and war when it comes to keeping their home.

\*This is part of the monthly meeting for BookVenturers, a book club for 3rd-5th grade children! There will be a new book selection each month. Registration is requested. Books will be available for borrowing behind the Children's Desk.\*

### Teen/'Tween Movie: Spider-Man: Far From Home (Rated PG-13—2 hours, 9 minutes)

Wed., December 11th 2:00 PM



Spider-Man and his friends, Ned, and MJ go on a much awaited European Vacation. Peter Parker plans to leave the path of heroism behind for a while, but he's quickly dragged into a new adventure. Nick Fury shows up and recruits Spider-Man to investigate the attacks of Elemental creatures across the continent. Their detective work leads to a confrontation with the villain Mysterio. Mysterio engages Spider-Man and Nick Fury using hair-raising illusions and effects that make them question their own senses. Spider-Man is forced to look inward before he is able to defeat Mysterio and complete his adventure far from home. Sponsored by the Needham Free Public Library.



NEEDHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
1159 HIGHLAND AVENUE  
NEEDHAM, MA  
781-455-7559, EX. 2 FOR REFERENCE

## NEEDHAM COMIC BOOK CLUB!!

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Needham Free Public Library,  
Young Adult Room, 2nd Floor

Reading: "Seconds" by Bryan Lee O'Malley



1. Write your mistake - 2. Ingest one mushroom - 3. Go to sleep - 4. Wake anew  
These are the 4 rules that the talented chef Katie follows to change her life and get a second chance... will everything go according to plan? What will happen to our heroine?  
Written by acclaimed author of the Scott Pilgrim series, join as we discuss Bryan Lee O'Malley's "Seconds" as a group.

Copies of this month's title will be available at the Adult Reference desk on the Second Floor.

For more info contact Erin Bassett at ebassett@minlib.net

## High School Study Night

Thurs., December 12th 4:00-8:00 PM



In collaboration with the Needham Senior High School, the Needham Free Public Library will be offering a study space in the Library's Community Room for Needham students studying for the AP U.S. History exam. Drop in and leave as you please. There will be tables manned by teachers and friends to help out. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided as well. Any questions may be directed to Erin at the Reference Desk: 781-455-7559 x2.

### Interactive Teen/'Tween Movie: Elf (Rated PG—1 hour 37 minutes)\*

Thurs., December 26th 5:00 PM



Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. As it happens, this is Walter Hobbs, a cynical businessman. After a DNA test proves this, Walter reluctantly attempts to start a relationship with the childlike Buddy with increasingly chaotic results. Snacks and drinks will be available for attendees. **\*Registration is required for this program.** To register, call 781-455-7559 x2. Please ask for Erin (Reference) for more information about this exciting event.



This Month in the Friends' Gallery  
**Needham Art Association**

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



## December Book Discussions

### NPL Book Group

Tuesday, December 10th

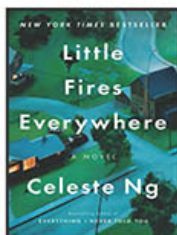
#### *Little Fires Everywhere*

by Celeste Ng

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned—from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren—an enigmatic artist and single mother—who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past...

\*January 14, 2020—*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari\*

1:00 PM



### NPL Evening Book Club

Wednesday, December 18th

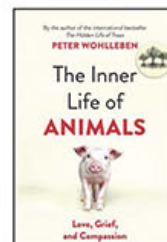
#### *The Inner Life of Animals: Love, Grief, and Compassion—Surprising Observations of a Hidden World*

by Peter Wohlleben

Through vivid stories of devoted pigs, two-timing magpies, and scheming roosters, *The Inner Life of Animals* weaves the latest scientific research into how animals interact with the world with Peter Wohlleben's personal experiences in forests and fields. Horses feel shame, deer grieve, and goats discipline their kids. Ravens call their friends by name, rats regret bad choices, and butterflies choose the very best places for their children to grow up.

In this, his latest book, Peter Wohlleben follows the hugely successful *The Hidden Life of Trees* with insightful stories into the emotions, feelings, and intelligence of animals around us. Animals are different from us in ways that amaze us—and they are also much closer to us than we ever would have thought. \*January 15, 2020—*The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies* by Jason Fagone\*

7:00 PM

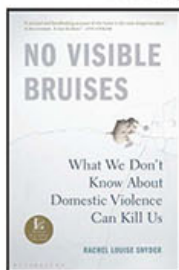


### DVAC One Book Event Book Discussion

*No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us* by Rachel Louise Snyder

Wed., January 29th

7:30 PM



In *No Visible Bruises*, journalist Rachel Louise Snyder gives context for what we don't know we're seeing. She frames this urgent and immersive account of the scale of domestic violence in our country around key stories that explode the common myths—that if things were bad enough, victims would just leave; that a violent person cannot become nonviolent; that shelter is an adequate response; and, most insidiously, that violence inside the home is a private matter, sealed from the public sphere and disconnected from other forms of violence. Through the stories of victims, perpetrators, law enforcement, and reform movements from across the country, Snyder explores the real roots of private violence, its far-reaching consequences for society, and what it will take to truly address it. Books available to borrow were purchased by the Friends of the Needham Public Library. Co-Sponsored by the Needham Domestic Violence Action Committee and the Needham

Free Public Library.

## Diversity and Discussion Book Club

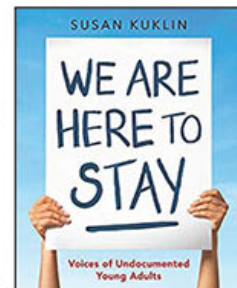
Co-sponsored by the Trustees of the Needham Free Public Library, Needham Diversity Initiative & Needham Human Rights Committee

*We Are Here to Stay* by Susan Kuklin

Thurs., January 9th

7:30 PM

Meet nine courageous young adults who have lived in the United States with a secret for much of their lives: they are not U.S. citizens. They came from Colombia, Mexico, Ghana, Independent Samoa, and Korea. They came seeking education, fleeing violence, and escaping poverty. All have heartbreaking and hopeful stories about leaving their homelands and starting a new life in America. And all are weary of living in the shadows. *We Are Here to Stay* is a very different book than it was intended to be when originally slated for a 2017 release, illustrated with Susan Kuklin's gorgeous full-color portraits. Since the last presidential election and the repeal of DACA, it is no longer safe for these young adults to be identified in photographs or by name. Their photographs have been replaced with empty frames, and their names are represented by first initials. We are honored to publish these enlightening, honest, and brave accounts that encourage open, thoughtful conversation about the complexities of immigration—and the uncertain future of immigrants in America. \*March 12, 2020—*The Body Papers* by Grace Talusan\*

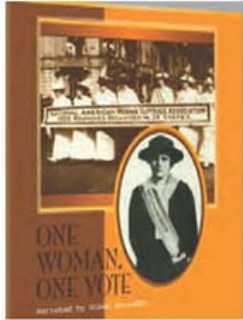




**The League of Women Voters of Needham  
and the Needham Free Public Library  
Present the 2020**

# WOMEN TAKE ACTION FILM SERIES

**January 28 *One Woman, One Vote***



This program documents the struggle which culminated in the passing of the 19th Amendment in the U.S. Senate by one vote. Witness the 70-year struggle for women's suffrage. Discover why the crusaders faced entrenched opposition from men and women.

**February 25 *Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders—  
Women of the Civil Rights Movement***

Compelling story of the Mississippi Civil Rights movement as told by the remarkable and courageous women who changed the course of history.



**March 24 *She's Beautiful When She's Angry:  
The History of the Women's Liberation Movement***



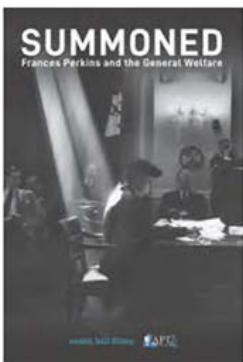
Provocative, rousing and often humorous account of the birth of the modern women's liberation movement in the late 1960s through the new millennium.

**April 29 *Atomic Homefront***

A group of moms-turned-advocates confront the EPA, government agencies, and the corporations behind the illegal dumping of dangerous radioactive waste in their backyards.



**May 21 *Summoned:  
Frances Perkins and the General Welfare***



In the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt appointed Frances Perkins as the first woman on a presidential cabinet. She became the driving force behind Social Security, the 40-hour work week, the eight-hour day, minimum wage and unemployment compensation.

**June 23 *Made in L.A.  
(Hecho en Los Angeles)***

Three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from trendy clothing retailer Forever 21.



- Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Needham and the Needham Free Public Library
- All films shown at Needham Public Library, 1139 Highland Ave.
- At 7:00 pm
- Discussion will follow the films if time permits
- Free and open to all





## Upcoming Events...

### 2020 McIver Lecture Series—Glassworks! The Art of Stained Glass—Elizabeth Fox, Curatorial Assistant in American Art at the Worcester Art Museum

Sun., January 5th 2:00 PM



Previously on exhibit at the WAM were two sets of exquisite memorial windows created by *Louis C. Tiffany* and *John La Farge*, which have not been on view for more than 40 years. Originally commissioned for Boston's Mount Vernon Congregational Church in the late 1890's, the large stained-glass works were donated to WAM in 1975 when the church vacated its building. Elizabeth Fox, who has served as curatorial assistant of American Art at the Worcester Art Museum since January 2019, will speak about this extraordinary exhibit. Currently, her projects involve the reinstallation of WAM's American Galleries which will explore the cost of luxury in early American visual and material culture. *This is the first of three lectures, and is sponsored by the Trustees of the Needham Free Public Library in memory of former director Vivian D. McIver.*



### Documentary: *American Experience—The Race Underground* (NR—60 minutes)

Mon., January 13th 7:30 PM



In the late 19th century, as America's teeming cities grew increasingly congested, the time had come to replace the nostalgic horse-drawn trolleys with a faster, cleaner, safer, and more efficient form of transportation. Ultimately, it was Boston—a city of so many firsts—that overcame a litany of engineering challenges, the greed-driven interests of businessmen, and the great fears of its citizenry to construct America's first subway. Based in part on Doug Most's acclaimed book of the same name, *The Race Underground* tells the dramatic story of an invention that changed the lives of millions. Part of PBS' *American Experience*, this event is sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.

### Children's Movie: *Abominable* (Rated PG— 1 hour, 37 minutes)

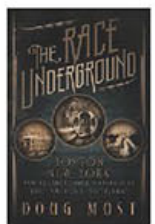
Fri., January 17th 3:30 PM

When teenage Yi encounters a young Yeti on the roof of her apartment building in Shanghai, she and her mischievous friends, Jin and Peng, name him "Everest" and embark on an epic quest to reunite the magical creature with his family at the highest point on Earth. But the trio of friends will have to stay one-step ahead of Burnish, a wealthy man intent on capturing a Yeti, and zoologist Dr. Zara to help Everest get home. This event is sponsored by the Needham Free Public Library.



### Needham Author Doug Most—*The Race Underground: Boston, New York, and the Incredible Rivalry That Built America's First Subway*

Sun., January 12th 2:00 PM



Needham author Doug Most will bring Boston history alive based on his book, *The Race Underground: Boston, New York, and the Incredible Rivalry That Built America's First Subway*. It all started with the Blizzard of 1888 and two hypercompetitive brothers—*Henry*

*Melville Whitney* of Boston and *William Collins Whitney* of New York City—both of whom pursued the dream of having his city being the first American metropolis to have a subway—and the great race was on. The competition between Boston and New York was played out in an era not unlike our own, one of economic upheaval, job losses, bitter political tensions, and the question of America's place in the world. Books will be available for purchase and autographing. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Needham Public Library.*



Author Doug Most



### FRIENDS' WINTER BOOKSALE



Friday, January 24th  
12:30 - 4:00 PM

Saturday, January 25th  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday, January 26th  
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Sunday is Bargain Day: all items are half-price and a brown bag is \$8.00.