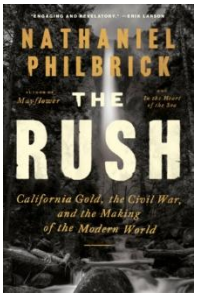
Friends of the Needham Public Library

2026-2027 Friends' Salon Series

Please Join Us!

Friends' programs are free to all, and all are welcome. Programs and book sales are presented in the library's Community Room at 1139 Highland Avenue, Needham. Please **register to attend** programs at needhamlibrary.org/events. Seats are limited.



Tuesday, Novevember 17, 2026, 7:00 PM

Author Nathaniel Philbrick, *"The Rush"*

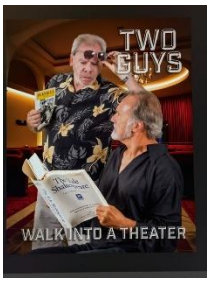
National Book Award winner Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *In the Heart of the Sea* and *Mayflower*, discusses his new book revealing how California's Gold Rush forged the modern United States—and lit the long fuse to the civil war. Mr. Philbrick will appear in conversation with filmmaker **Randall MacLowry**, whose work for the GBH/PBS *American Experience* series includes the documentary "The Gold Rush." Location: Powers Hall, Needham Town Hall. Presented in collaboration with the Needham Free Public Library.



Sunday, November 22, 2026, 2:00–3:30 PM

Historian William Leeman, "John Paul Jones: Father of the American Navy"

Dr. Leeman, a Salve Regina University professor, discusses his new book, *The Long Road to Annapolis,* telling the story of Jones, a Scottish émigré who became a daring sea captain of the Revolutionary War. A naval professional who advocated for better education and training for American naval officers, he was forgotten by the American people. In the early 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt gained public support for a large and powerful U.S. Navy by reclaiming Jones as "Father of the American Navy".



Sunday, January 10, 2027, 2:00–3:30 PM

Actors Stephen Collins and Jerry Bisantz, "Two Guys Walk into a Theater"

It's a guy thing! In scene and song, stage veterans Stephen Collins and Jerry Bisantz present a theatrical journey examining the role of the American Male in the Great American Theater. What is it to be a man in today's world? What was it in the past? Comic to poignant, this fast-paced show will entertain you while bringing back memories and looking into the future of the American Male. It's "man-splaining" at its most entertaining.

– See more programs on the other side –

Join the Friends of the Needham Public Library at friendsneedhamlibrary.org

Members receive advance notice of programs!



Sunday, February 7, 2027, 2:00–3:30 PM

Historian Kellie Carter Jackson, *"We Refuse"*

Dr. Jackson, a Wellesley College professor, discusses her recent book, *We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance*, in which she radically reframes the past and present of Black resistance to white supremacy. Drawing on American history and stories from her own family, she urges readers to move past the simple binary of violence vs. nonviolence. She illuminates the full breadth of Black responses to white oppression.



Sunday, March 14, 2027, 2:00–3:30 PM

***Boston Globe* Food Editor Esther Mobley, "What We're Eating Now"**

What are Americans – in particular, Bostonians – eating now? *Boston Globe* Food Editor Esther Mobley chews over changing tastes in food and eating habits. Whither red meat? Plant-based proteins? Cocktails and mocktails? Solo dining, vegan restaurant chains and home cooking? Plus: confessions of a former California wine critic.



Sunday, April 11, 2027, 2:00–3:30 PM

Wellesley College Professor Vernon Shetley, "Noir in Cinema Today"

In the 1940s and 50s film noir explored the dark side of American life: hard-boiled detectives, femme fatales, corruption in the gritty metropolis. In the 1970s, the style was revived, and in the decades since it has remained a key element of America cinema. This presentation by Dr. Shetley of Wellesley College will explore neo-noir filmmaking from the 1970s revival to the present day, focusing on its combination of glamor and squalor, beauty and violence, romance and despair.



Sunday, June 13, 2027, 2:00-3:30 PM

Historian/Librarian Karin Wulf, "Genealogy and the Power of Connection"

Dr. Wulf, Brown University professor and author of *Lineage: The Power and Promise of Genealogy in Early America*, reveals that back in the 18th century, long before Internet-aided research, Americans were already fixated on genealogy. Family histories were deeply meaningful for diverse early Americans, who baked it into the very structures of the society they created through law, politics, and religion. Learn about the role of genealogy then, and its impact now.

Friends' Book Sales



Fall Book Sale: Friday, October 2-Sunday, October 4, 2026

Winter Book Sale: Friday, January 29-Sunday, January 31, 2027

Spring Book Sale: Friday, June 4-Sunday, June 6, 2027

Hours for all sales: Friday: 12–4 PM. Saturday: 9 AM–4 PM. Sunday (Bargain Day): 1–4 PM

Your purchases of our high-quality used books support the library. Thank you!