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### From the Desk of the Library Director

As the Library Director, I sometimes receive calls from unhappy patrons. Thankfully, that doesn't happen often. Most people that enter the library leave happy; often happier than they were when they came in. Library staff members know how important a customer service attitude is to me. They know, as I do, that sometimes, people come to the library and they've had a bad day. Sometimes, they're just looking for a connection with another person. If we can find them the right book, help them navigate that online job application or website, or just make the transaction that they have with us a pleasant one, then we have done what we set out to do. We never know if we will see that patron again, so we want what might be our only exchange with them to be a good one. We want them to leave the library feeling good about the experience that they had. Sadly, we can't always

Sadly, we can't always fill a patron's request. Sometimes, that book is just not on the shelf. Sometimes, there's nothing that we can do to help improve a person's day. We're human and we can't *always* get it right, strive as we may to do so. At any rate, I recently received a call from a woman who claimed that her adult daughter had not had a pleasant experience at the library. Of course, I apologized and did what I could to remedy the

situation. Before ending the call however, this woman said something that librarians often hear in this electronic day and age. She said, "Nobody uses the library anyway." I am here to tell you that is not true.

During the month of March 10,819 people walked through the library door. Our staff checked out 15,171 items to them. They renewed an additional 3,132 items, bringing the total item check-out last month to 18,303. In addition, our staff checked back in a total of 18,588 items. That means that the nine individuals that work our Circulation Desk handled 36,891 items last month, or 4,099 items *each*. In addition, our Reference staff placed 2,518 requests for items from other libraries. Patrons of other libraries requested 2,836 items from our library. We gave out 14 *new* library cards in March, and added 188 new items to the collection.

In 2015, the Library circulated 126,879 books, 5,785 magazines, 16,742 audio titles, 54,352 DVDs, 1,467 e-books and 1,467 downloadable audio books. We circulated 19 downloadable videos, 2,728 items in electronic format (including CD-ROMs) and 452 miscellaneous items (such as cake pans, launchpads, etc.). Our total circulation in 2015 was 212,172. In addition to that, we requested and received a total of 25,023 items for our



patrons from other libraries, and provided 29,048 items to patrons of other Massachusetts towns. We held forty-nine programs for children, teens and adults. 990 people attended those programs.

As of June 30, 2015, we had 18,858 registered borrowers. 18,597 of them were Dracut residents. Our Reference staff answered 20,228 reference questions last year. We held 351 programs for adults, children and teens. 6,300 people availed themselves of those programs. A total 205,959 people visited our library in 2015.

It looks to me like the Library is doing a pretty good job of serving our residents... and that for the most part, Dracut residents are happy with the services we provide. Can we do better? Absolutely! There are always ways to improve. One of the things that we are looking to do in order to better serve you is update our technology. We have submitted a five-year capital plan to the town that would allow us to update

*Continued on page 2...*

"As a survivor of the Holocaust, I am an eyewitness to some of the most horrible murders committed against innocent people, but as a survivor on Schindler's list, I am also an eyewitness to what can happen when people make a difference, when people get involved." Rena Finder.

See page 4 for information about the Rena Finder visit to the Parker Memorial Library

## From the Desk of the Director - continued

our computers, WiFi, and technology infrastructure. The Merrimack Valley Library Consortium, to which we belong, is looking to change to a more customer-friendly online catalog and circulation module. Staff members have been serving on various committees to look at and evaluate the two options that are being considered. We want to make sure that we have a spot at the table so that whatever option is chosen will be good for our patrons. Parker Library staff mem-

bers are continually attending workshops and training offered by the consortium and the state. We want to know what new technologies or ways to attract and keep our patrons are out there. You should take pride in the fact that your library staff is always looking to improve the ways in which they serve you.

As always, I am available to meet and talk with you. This is *your* library and we want to hear what you think!

Nanci Milone Hill,  
Library Director

## Friends of the Library Scholarship

The Friends of the Dracut Library offer a scholarship each year to a Dracut resident that has completed his/her high school education. He/she must prove his/her acceptance to an ongoing education program prior to the award issuance, and have volunteered at the Parker Library or in conjunction with the Friends of Dracut Library. The deadline to apply for this year's scholarship is April 15, 2016.

## March 2016 - New Adult Fiction Titles

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Albert, Susan Wittig. <i>Blood Orange</i> | • Brunstetter, Wanda E. <i>The Stubborn Father</i>  | • <i>a Mary McGill Dog Mystery</i>  | • <i>and Stories of Other Dire Places</i>                                   |
| • Baldacci, David. <i>The Last Mile</i>     | • Carr, Robin. <i>What We Find</i>                  | • Dickey, Eric Jerome. <i>Blackbirds</i>                                    | • Feehan, Christine. <i>Fire Bound Murder</i>                               |
| • Begley, Louis. <i>Kill and Be Killed</i>  | • Chase, Ashlyn. <i>I Dream of Dragons</i>          | • Divikaruni, Chitra Banerjee. <i>Before We Visit the Goddess</i>           | • Graham, Kate. <i>It Takes One</i>   |
| • Berry, Steve. <i>The 14th Colony</i>      | • Crawford, Susan. <i>The Other Widow</i>           | • Donovan, Kemper. <i>The Decent Proposal</i>                               | • Grissom, Kathleen. <i>Glory Over Everything: Beyond the Kitchen House</i> |
| • Black, Lisa. <i>That Darkness</i>         | • Daheim, Mary. <i>Here Comes the Bribe</i>         | • Duchovny, David. <i>Bucky F*cking Dent</i>                                | • Haley, Guy. <i>The Emperor's Railroad</i>                                 |
| • Brennan, Allison. <i>Poisonous</i>        | • Day, Silvia. <i>One with You</i>                  | • Duncan, Elizabeth J. <i>Murder on the Hour: a Penny Brannigan Mystery</i> | • Hamilton, Jane. <i>The Excellent Lombards</i>                             |
| • Brooks, Kim. <i>The Houseguest</i>        | • DeBoard, Paula Treick. <i>The Drowning Girls</i>  | • Estleman, Loren D. <i>Desperate Detroit</i>                               | • Harris, Sherry. <i>All Murders Final!: a Sarah W. Garage Sale Mystery</i> |
| • Brown, Helen. <i>Tumbledown Manor</i>     | • Delaney, Kathleen. <i>Curtains for Miss Plym:</i> |   |   |

- Heuvelt, Thomas Olde. *Hex*
- Hilton, L.S. *Maestra*
- Jacka, Benedict. *Burned*
- James, Bill. *First Fix Your Alibi*
- Janowitz, Brenda. *The Dinner Party*
- Johansen, Iris. *Hide Away: an Eve Duncan novel*
- Kadrey, Richard. *The Everything Box*
- Kaye, Laura. *Ride Hard: a Raven Riders novel*
- Kilpack, Josi S. *Forever and Forever: the Courtship of Henry Longfellow and Fanny Appleton*
- King, Laurie R. *The Murder of Mary Russell*
- Kutsukake, Lynne. *The Translation of Love*
- Lackey, Mercedes. *Silence: a novel of the Serrated Edge*
- Laurens, Stephanie. *A Buccaneer at Heart*
- Lehane, Con. *Murder at the 42nd Street Library: a Mystery*
- Levi, Jonathan. *Septimania*
- Mallery, Susan. *Best of My Love*
- McGuire, Seanan.
- McKinney-Whetstone, Diane. *Lazaretto*
- Neuvel, Sylvain. *Sleeping Giants*
- O'Connor, Stephen. *Thomas Jefferson Dreams of Sally Hemings*
- O'Nan, Stewart. *City of Secrets*
- Oldham, Nick. *Onslaught: a Steve Flynn Thriller*
- Page, Katherine Hall. *The Body in the Wardrobe: a Faith Fairchild Mystery*
- Parr, Delia. *The Midwife's Dilemma*
- Perry, Marta. *The Rebel: Keepers of the Promise, Book 3*
- Quick, Amanda. *'Til Death do us Part*
- Quindlen, Anna. *Miller's Valley*
- Randel, Weina Dai. *The Empress of Bright Moon*
- Roberts, Nora. *The Obsession*
- Robotham, Michael. *Close Your Eyes*
- Robbins, James. *War Hawk: a Tucker Wayne novel*
- Ross, Ann B. *Miss Julia Inherits a*
- Mess
- Salvatore, R.A. *Maestro*
- Sandford, John. *Extreme Prey*
- Scottoline, Lisa. *Most Wanted*
- Sittenfield, Curtis. *Eligible*
- Strieber, Whitney. *Alien Hunter: the White House*
- Swift, Graham. *Mothering Sunday*
- Tolkein, J.R.R. *The Story of Kullervo*
- Toutonghi, Steve. *Join*
- Turtledove, Harry. *The House of Daniel*
- Vachss, Andrew. *Drawing Dead: a Cross novel*
- Ward, J.R. *The Beast: a novel of the Black Dagger Brotherhood*
- White, Edmund. *Our Young Man*
- Woods, Stuart. *Family Jewels*
- Dolin, Eric J. *Brilliant Beacons: a History of the American Lighthouse*
- Elad, Joel. *LinkedIn for Dummies*
- Galfard, Christophe. *The Universe in Your Hand: a Journey through Space, Time, and Beyond*
- Isay, Dave. *Callings: the Purpose and Passion of Work*
- Johnson, John H, Jr. *Everydata*
- Means, Howard. *67 Shots: Kent State and the End of American Innocence*
- Mladjenovic, Paul J. *Stock Investing for Dummies*
- Philbrick, Nathaniel. *Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution*
- Rinzler, Carol Ann. *Nutrition for Dummies*
- Schorn, Tracy. *Leave a Cheater, Gain a Life: the Chump Lady's' Survival Guide*
- Soukup, Ruth. *Unstuffed*
- Traister, Rebecca. *All the Single Ladies*
- Traub, James. *John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit*

## New Adult Nonfiction Titles

- Carpender, Dana. *The Low-Carb Diabetes Solution Cookbook*
- Consumer Dummies. *Staying Sharp for Dummies*

M.G. PARKER  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
28 ARLINGTON ST.  
DRACUT, MA 01826  
978-454-5474  
DRACUTLIBRARY.ORG

## STAFF

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Laura Sanscartier, Amy  
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Lumb, Michael Salem

## TRUSTEES

Dr. Linda Trouville, Chair  
*Vacant*

John Dyer

Jim Nolan

Eric Jackson

## Common Good Reads



Join us for a discussion on competing notions for a common good. Led by **Jill Silos-Rooney, Ph.D.**, we will read four texts and, over the course of two months, discuss to what extent we are responsible for each other. What do we owe each other as members of the same nation? To what extent do we take responsibility for what happens in the country at large? The world?

Jill Silos-Rooney is an Associate Professor of History at Massachusetts Bay Community College

in Wellesley Hills, MA, where she teaches "We the People": Immigration and Citizenship in American History; America Through the Media; Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. She has also taught history at the University of New Hampshire, Hesser College and Colby-Sawyer College. She received her Doctorate of Philosophy in History at UNH. She holds professional and academic memberships in several organizations.

**April 11, 2016**

*Maus* by Art Spiegelman

**April 25, 2016** *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson

**May 9, 2016** *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

Participants may attend one, several, or all sessions. All meetings will be held on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm and will run approximately an hour and a half. All meetings will be held in the Meeting Room, with the exception of the May 9th meeting, which will take place in the large print room.

Copies of each title will be available at the Circulation Desk. Please ask for the *Common Good Reads* program.

*This program is supported through a grant from the Massachusetts Humanities*

## Schindler's List Survivor Visits the Library



**THURSDAY, MAY 26th  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Mark your calendars for this exciting, after-hours event that you won't want to miss!

As one of the last Holocaust survivor's employed by Oskar Schindler during World War II, Rena FINDER will tell her compelling story starting as a child in Poland, the Krakow ghetto, life in the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz, and ultimately, her story of survival as a child in Oskar Schindler's

factory. This story, immortalized in the film *Schindler's List*, as told by Rena's own experience is a rare opportunity to hear an incredible story of courage, faith and hope first-hand.

Space is limited, so register soon.

*Co-sponsored by the Richardson Middle School and the Parker Library.*

We will be showing the film *Schindler's List* on Saturday, May 22nd from 1:00 pm to 4:15 pm. The movie is rated R. Please register by clicking here.

## Adult Coloring Group

*"Coloring for adults has become a trendy way to relax and unplug, with books dedicated to the pursuit being named the new must-haves."*

Join in on the latest craze with our Adult Coloring Group. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Old Library section. No need to register, just drop in. Bring your own coloring books and pencils, or use ours.

