

THOMPSON FREE LIBRARY

A 'HAPPENING PLACE' ASSOCIATION MEMBERS' UPDATE

April 2018

PATRIOTIC 'EYE-CANDY'

by Tom Lyford



One of the joys of working the front desk over the past two months has been getting to witness, several times daily, the families and individuals who sweep in through our front door and become immediately transfixed by the front-and-center diorama of the iconic American monuments and buildings crafted in miniature (many of which virtually define the Washington D.C. Landscape). Children's angelic voices have been heard asking "Which one is *this*, Mom?" or "Isn't *this* one the Lincoln Memorial?" and "We went in here too, *didn't* we!"

The patriotic set of scale models were generously donated by Ms. Barbara Brooks, a life-long Dover-Foxcroft resident. Barbara's recently departed mom, Mrs. Fred Peters (of Dover-Foxcroft's own once iconic Peters' Pharmacy), originally owned this marvelous collection. We were also fortunate to have been visited one day by a traveling photographer, one Eric Leif Johnson, who snapped the above close-ups on the left and right. More of his photos can be found on our Facebook pages.

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### ***3D PRINTER***

by Kim Brawn



Above, STEM guide Alicia Millette instructs...

Michelle Fagan hailed January's 3D Printer program a success that will lead to similar programs in the near future. She and STEM Guide Alicia Millette put TFL's 3D printer through its paces much to the delight of very interested attendees, most of whom had never interacted with the science-fiction-like technology before, only glimpsing it online or on TV.

"It's pretty exciting to see it in the library," says Michelle. "We give a basic understanding of how the printer works. Alicia keeps things simple and easy to understand." All ages are welcome, as long as they have at least beginner computer skills.





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### TFL'S APRIL 10 CENT BOOK SALE

by Tom Lyford



Our book sale always draws a big crowd. It's famous after all, and why not? Each book, magazine, CD, and movie can be had for one thin dime? That's unheard of! And we always have such a huge selection. Happening approximately every three months, a surprising amount of money flows in from this coveted three-day community event, and with that capital the library is able to fund many of our free-to-the-public summer programs as well providing aid to charities when the need arises. The money that was made at the December book sale, for instance, was designated to go to the American Library Association Disaster Relief Fund, a fund that helps libraries that suffered damage during the hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Gracious thanks go to Nancy and Bruce Grant, who for years have performed a generous volunteer service by setting up, and doing the take-down, of the downstairs Community Room for this event, and would eagerly welcome more volunteers.



### Artist of the Month

by Kim Brawn

Local resident Kathy Farris brightened up the library and people's spirits with her wonderful art work. Her striking and vibrant "Lily Bay" was a real eye catcher, while "Summer Meadow" left us yearning for windows-down drives by wild flower-laced hillsides. Since retiring, Kathy has had more time to dedicate to both art history and the process of creating art. Her medium of choice is acrylic paint, though mixed mediums and collage are sometimes added. Her subject matter varies, ranging from nature and landscapes to local scenes.



### TFL Book Club

by Tom Lyford

### Bee a Reader

by Kim Brawn



Spring has sprung in the children's section thanks to the delightful bulletin board created by Miss Michelle, with a big shout-out to bodacious bee maker Barbara Lockwood! Busy bees of all ages are buzzing about it!

Thompson Free Library Reading Group, November 2017- April 2018  
2nd Thursday each month at 6:00 pm. usually in the Dover-Foxcroft Library

Nov 9, 2017, *Hidden life of trees*, by Peter Wohlleben  
The book is built on a foundation of reputable science, but it reads like a gentle old storyteller explaining the wondrous magic of beautiful forests. Trees are presenting as sentient, purposeful beings living in dynamic relationship with each other. Some reviewers found it overly anthropomorphic.

Thurs, Dec 14, *Mysteries of Soldiers Gräve*, by Paul Zimmer (check with library for location and time) Award winning author debuts a novel that blends honest elderly romance with just the right amount of mystery and threat. A treatise on what matters most in life: adventure or comfort, truth or well-crafted lies, giving or taking.

Jan 12, 2018, *Moonglow*, Michael Chabon  
A classic Chabon tale done as a sprawling, yet intensely personal, passion to his grandparents, their lives together and as individuals. Based on facts, but embellished, the novel offers three major narrative threads: the grandfather's wartime experiences, where he was tasked with hunting down everything and everyone associated with the German's society, the fraught relationship between Chabon's grandparents, and the period shortly before Chabon's grandfather's death, when he finds himself falling in love again.

Feb 9, 2018, *The stars are fire*, by Anita Shreve  
The book's setting is during the 1940 fires in Maine that destroyed an entire area. The main character is a sheltered and complacent young woman from that era who develops into an independent one with strength and joy.

Mar 9, 2018, *The summer of the grand grandmother* Madeleine L'Engle  
The journal underscores the potential beauty of death as well as our responsibility to the dying. Prize-winning that is made public, the author's emotions and opinions are made bare not in an effort to instruct or counsel, but to offer insight and possibly some hope.

Apr 13, 2018, *Stranger in the woods* Michael Finkel  
A thought-provoking true story of a man who carved a life for himself among him to live for 27 years in the brutal Maine woods. The author weaves in his research on the related topics of voluntary solitude versus loneliness, the grain and scientific studies about the human need for social connection, the role of hormones, and about various (supposed) disorders that our society has invented.

Remember the North Woods Hermit, that infamous Maine oddball whose unique story crept into most national periodicals and headlines a few years back? His biography, *Stranger In the Woods* by Michael Finkel, is the subject for discussion in Thursday evening's monthly meeting of the Book Club, a group that gathers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm. here at TFL. The sheet to the left, listing upcoming titles, can always be found on the lobby bulletin board as well as Helen's office door. A lively and faithful handful of avid readers look forward to these evenings. TFL: yes, a 'Happening Place.'



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### *The Knit and Purl Gang*

by Tom Lyford

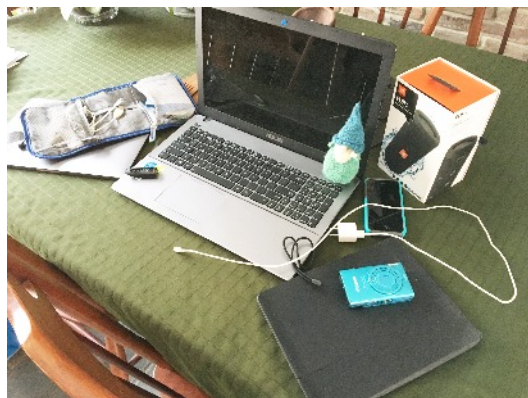
*Eight-foot-long scarf that I've knitted, just sittin'... Tea cozy, stocking, but right now this mitten...  
Afghan by pattern with yarn fit for kings... These are a few of my fave knitted things...*

You name it; they've knitted it. Right down there in the Reading Room, every Tuesday from 11:00 to 12:30-ish. Happy Hour. For *years*. One of the longest lasting TFL "groups" ever. Sometimes only as few as two or three, occasionally fifteen, but almost always a healthy handful of knitters plying their busy needles like woolen mill machinery and chatting up a storm. The brainchild of our own Pat Juska, the knitting group is an old-fashion social gathering, a throwback to the good old days, newcomers always welcomed with open arms. And at a quarter past eleven, you'll subliminally notice both Helen and Val (and others) moseying on down in the Reading Room's general direction to eyeball all the the latest projects with appreciative oohs and ahs. TFLs knitting group: a joy to behold!



### *Technology Help Time*

by Kim Brawn



While all of us help patrons and the public with computer questions, librarian Michelle Fagan decided to devote a two-hour chunk of time exclusively to specific technology issues anyone is having. So, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1-3 p.m. is now Technology Help Time. Walk-in's welcome and wanted. While we're not experts and can't fix devices, we can use our skills and experience to answer questions, trouble shoot, and point people in the right direction. We're off to a slow start so please help us get the word out. Topics might include: smartphones, laptops, digital cameras, USB flash drives, social media, streaming media, lightning cables and, of course, how to download and use apps (including cloudLibrary).

### *An EGGScellent Adventure*

by Kim Brawn



Once again, as Easter approached, Michelle (with help from her stalwart assistant, Blair Fagan) shepherded about 20 people through the intricate process of making Pysanky Eggs, a traditional, ancient Ukrainian craft. The word pysanka (singular) comes from the verb pysaty "to write" or "to inscribe." It begins with beeswax, brightly colored dyes, a smooth uncooked egg, a steady hand to use the kistka (hot wax pen) and lots of patience and paper towels. This lively yet focused group took the whole eggspereience seriously--no one cracked a yoke, well one person did but she just picked another from the carton. Participants left the library, laughing and talking and thanking us, eager to show off their colorful eggs. "A great program with lots of happy people," enthused Michelle.



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### *Not Your Parents' Science Camp* by Kim Brawn

Sixteen local students in grades four through six spent four days doing hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) activities over February vacation. Led by Local STEM advocate and educator Alicia Millette, the event was coordinated with TFL Librarian Michelle Fagan. Alicia shared some highlights:

Students had a great time building their own catapults and experimenting with different design improvements to see if they could launch Lego people 20 feet. It is an engaging project that encourages students to use science and engineering processes of trying, and re-engineering, and trying again to achieve a goal. The room was filled with laughter as wave after wave of Lego people were sent flying across the room, some even as far as 30 feet!



They also learned about simple circuits, making their own electric motor cars using paperclips, wire, a small 5v motor typically found in small toys that move, and cardboard. They learned how electricity works and used the knowledge to make their own cars. They got a kick out of seeing the cars move on their own, giving them a sense of pride that they had built their cars from scratch.

Students also created their own keychains in 3D. Using their initials and 3D designing software, students linked them together and added a connector and then had them printed on the library's new 3D printer. Each student went home with a personalized keychain that they designed themselves.

### *Guardians of Truth* by Kim Brawn

After a bit of a rocky start upon arrival at her hotel in the city of brotherly love and a dramatic but thankfully false bomb scare that sent the huge Pennsylvania Convention Center into lockdown, Michelle made the most of her time at the Public Library Association Conference in March. Former Deputy Attorney General (and Acting Attorney General) during the Obama administration, Sally Yates, was the opening speaker. "She called librarians the guardians of truth and information," Michelle said. Yates also pointed out that librarians have many opportunities to fight fake news.

Michelle eagerly attended a children's author breakfast where she met two of her favorite (J & YA) authors, Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead, who have teamed up on a magical new book, titled *Bob*.

Listening to publishers talk about their upcoming books ranked high on Michelle's list of best moments of the conference, an enormous event with booths, exhibits, and speakers where 8,000 librarians from across the country attended in person and another 2,000 participated virtually. Public Libraries 101 got high marks from Michelle for underscoring the training gap between those who work as support staff in libraries and those who have studied/specialized in the library sciences. Staff members are on the front lines but often don't know the fundamentals. Not surprisingly, Partnering to Reach Children with Barriers, dedicated to taking children's programs to children instead of children coming to the library, especially resonated with Michelle.



Overall, the conference was a valuable way to meet other librarians, both rural and urban, and learn about the similarities and the differences when it comes to running a library.

