

“The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

- Albert Einstein

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Off the Shelf

As you probably already know, the Parker Library is a member of the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLCC). The 36 members believe that our libraries are platforms for educational, economic, and civic opportunities. We strive to adapt our technology and services to the evolving needs of our communities and customers. Over the past year, the Parker Library chart a more meaningful course for our institution and our community. I am pleased to announce that the decision has been made. The libraries in Merrimack Valley Library Consortium have chosen Symphony, a product that will streamline workflows within the library and enable us to provide an enhanced catalog and user experience to everyone in our community.

How will things change for you, our patrons? In mid-May, our library catalog will receive an overhaul that will allow you to more easily find whatever you are looking for. With a single search, you'll be able to see everything within our library walls *and* our e-books, e-audiobooks, and streaming videos all in one place. That's a lot to search through! But don't worry; enhanced search filters will help you to narrow your results by audience, format, availability, and more, so that you can find exactly what you need!

Just looking for your next great read? Symphony allows us to customize our catalog with curated collections and lists so that you can feel like you're browsing our library displays and shelves even when you're at home! You'll also be able to easily use the catalog and electronic collections on your mobile device. One touch and all of our resources will be at your fingertips!

In addition to these superior search capabilities, we have also made accessibility a priority in the Symphony catalog. Our new catalog will be available in English, Spanish, and Chinese, enabling us to better serve and provide access to community members in their native language.

While the new catalog will have an updated look and feel, we will be maintaining and improving some of your favorite features from the old catalog. If you are wondering what to read, watch, or listen to next, the catalog will still contain recommendations and suggestions for further reading based on the titles and authors that you search for. Convenience is key, so you will have continued online access to your library account to place and manage holds and renew items. However, with our Symphony system, you will also be able



to pay your library fines and fees with your debit or credit card when you are using the catalog! Credit card payments are secure, can be made from any device connecting to the internet, and are registered to your library account in real time.

The ultimate goal of our new catalog is to empower you to take full advantage of our library's offerings. With easier access to online and digital content, the library is never truly closed!

At the Parker Library, we strive to meet your needs and provide access to valuable technology and information resources. By selecting Symphony, we have reaffirmed our commitment to quality customer service and to remaining on the cutting edge of library technology.

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

Nanci M. Hill, Library Director

Meet the Staff... Joyce Servente



Welcome to our new column: *Meet the Staff!* Each month, we will feature a different staff member. Make sure to say hello to them whenever you see them.

This month, we would like you to meet **Joyce Servente**. Joyce became a stay-at-home mom when her son was born. Over the years, they enjoyed coming to the library's children's programs. When her son headed off to preschool, Joyce started a book group here at the library. Through that group, she has made wonderful friends and

read many entertaining and enjoyable books, some... not so much. Sometimes, the book club choices forced her to read something she probably never would have picked up on her own. One day, while picking up a book for her book club, she noticed a posting at the library for a part-time position and jumped at the opportunity. Joyce first started with the Parker during the current building's renovation, while we were still housed at the Junior High School. Joyce remained on staff as they made the

transition into the new building. She stayed at the library for six and a half years, before leaving to go work for a friend. After a few years, that job came to an end and an opportunity to return to the library opened up. She has now been with us three months and is enjoying seeing all the familiar faces as well as getting to know new staff and patrons.

We are thrilled to have Joyce back in our fold and know that you will be too. Make sure to stop by and say hello when you see her on our Circulation Desk.

NEW! Charging Stations

Thanks to the M.G. Parker



Library Enrichment Foundation, we now have two phone charging stations available at our library, for patron use. The charging stations are located on the Mezzanine level, in the Magazine Room, and near the elevator on the 2nd floor. We know that you are as appreciative of this new offering as we are.

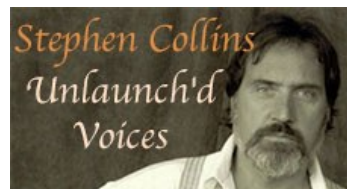
Please note: The library is not responsible for theft or

damage to your phone. Please make sure that you watch your phone at all times while using our charging stations.

New! Hot Spots

In accordance with the Library's goal to provide the community with the technology and services that they desire, the library is now circulates Wi-Fi mobile hot spots. Each hot spots comes with a charging cable and block, and three instruction booklets, in a carrying case. To read the library's policy on borrowing these hot spots, visit the library's web page at www.dracutlibrary.org and click on Forms & Policies.

Meet Walt Whitman Saturday, April 15th



1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The program opens with the elderly Whitman on the evening of his seventieth birthday. He remembers a mystical experience he had in his thirty-seventh year that inspired him to write poetry.

The first part of the performance explores Whitman's preoccupation with the self and his resolve to write with "free and brave thought..." We revel with him as he celebrates

his body and himself and are confidants as he shares his struggle with his sexual self.

In the second part of the performance, Whitman's life is changed forever by the occurrence of the Civil War. It is here that he finds "... the most important work of my life..." nursing the wounded soldiers in the hospitals.

Stephen Collins grew up in Cambridge, and received a BA in Literature from UMass Boston. Recently he has been teaching seminars on Whitman, Hardy, Shakespeare, Frost, and Contemporary Poetry at various locations throughout the country.

Please register by visiting our website and clicking on the Events calendar.

An Afternoon with Local Poets



Saturday, April 22nd
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Join poets Rich Murphy, Steve Welch & Sam Mesiti for an afternoon of poetry.

The Body Politic by **Rich Murphy** is the winner of the 2013 Prize Americana from the American Popular Culture Association. Rich writes poetry that is "intelligent, critical, incisive and satirical. His poems examine - with unflinching honesty - not only what it means to be human but also what it means to be an American." Rich has taught poetry and writing at several colleges and universities in the U.S. He currently resides in Marblehead, MA.

Sam Mesiti grew up in North Andover, Massachusetts and attended Bradford College, Bradford, MA. He has been a student of poetry for several years and also fortunate enough to both learn and participate in this creative writing process with Rich Murphy. Some of the writers he follows include A.R. Ammons, Charles Simic, Rita Dove and James Tate. He has authored a chapbook of poetry entitled *Backbones and Millstones* and his work has appeared in *Harbinger Asylum*.

Steve Welch grew up in

Haverhill and is a freelance writer and editor. He has published stories and essays in various journals, including *Denver Magazine*, *Bloomsbury Review*, and *Anthropophagy*. Steve has also taught fiction writing at several colleges and universities in the U.S.

No need to register - feel free to just drop by.

Springtime & Poetry: they Go Together

Jeffrey Zygmont



Saturday, April 29th
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

As spring explodes all around us, join author and poet **Jeffrey Zygmont** for a fun and friendly talk about the role nature plays in artistic inspiration. Jeff is the author of numerous books, including the poetry collections *White Mountain Poems* and *More White Mountain Poems*, which celebrate and explore the natural wonder of New England's high peaks. As a poet, Jeff is known for vibrantly expressive and descriptive writing that appeals to a general audience. His talk will use poems to illustrate the ways that nature contributes to the creative process. His chatty and informal presentation aims to give you new insight and a greater appreciation

for the natural beauty surrounding us, and show you how artwork can enhance your enjoyment of it. The talk is suitable for all ages, and everyone is invited to attend.

No registration needed - feel free to just drop by.

The Hidden Kennedy



A Talk with Author Kate Clifford Larson
Tuesday, May 2nd
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Kate Clifford Larson was the 2016 recipient of the Mass Book Award for non-fiction for her book, *Rosemary: the Hidden Kennedy Daughter*. This work, reveals the central role intellectual disabilities and mental health issues played in the tragic life of the Kennedy's eldest daughter, and how Rosemary's legacy lives on in our nation's efforts to accommodate differently-abled people.

In *Rosemary*, Larson reveals how Joe and Rose Kennedy's strikingly beautiful eldest daughter attended exclusive schools, was presented as a debutante to the queen and king of England, and traveled the world with her high spirited sisters. Yet Rosemary was intellectually

disabled, a secret fiercely guarded by her powerful and glamorous family. Major new sources-Rose Kennedy's diaries and correspondence, letters from Rosemary's teachers and doctors, and exclusive family interviews- bring Rosemary alive as a girl adored but left far behind by her competitive siblings. Kate Larson reveals both the sensitive care Rose and Joe gave to Rosemary and then-as the family's standing reached an apex-the often desperate and duplicitous arrangements the Kennedys made to keep her away from home as she became increasingly difficult in her early twenties. It was an experimental lobotomy gone terribly wrong that ultimately inspired her siblings to direct attention to the plight of the disabled, transforming the lives of millions.

Kate Clifford Larson is the author of two other critically acclaimed biographies: *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero* (2004), now in production at HBO for an original movie; and *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* (2008).

Join us for this event, followed by a period of Q&A. Ms. Larson will sign books following the program. Copies of Ms. Larson's book will be available for purchase.

Sponsored by Kate Larson and the Friends of Dracut Library.

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Marina Morse, Melissa Ryan,
Joyce Servente

TRUSTEES

Dr. Linda Trouville, Chair
John Dyer
Jim Nolan
Eric Jackson
Monique Verville

**Alternatives to Pain:
Reiki**



**Wednesday, May 3rd
6:30 PM - 8:15 PM**

Join **Denise Gilbert**, certified Reiki Master and teacher, for a talk and demonstration. Learn the many benefits of the gentle, safe technique called reiki (pronounced ray-key), which is practiced at most major hospitals in Boston. You will learn exactly what reiki is and see a demonstration, followed by a period of questions and answers.

Denise Gilbert has a private practice at Be Well ,and beyond, Inc. in Acton, and is a provider at Emerson Hospital in Concord.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of Dracut Library.

Please register, starting April 15th, by visiting our website at www.dracutlibrary.org and clicking on our Event Calendar.

**Blues Concert for All
Ages**



**Walk through the Delta
Blues Concert with
Heather Creek
Saturday, May 6th
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

New Hampshire Blues Challenge winner, "Poor Howard" Stilth has been performing 12-string barrel house blues for over forty years. He has performed across the U.S., Europe, and Japan. His expertise on the 12-string guitar, his knowledge of early blues, and his warm sense of humor, have won him fans wherever he travels. "A Walk through the Delta" is both educational and entertaining, mixing music and folk humor, and showing how this distinctly music has gained international popularity.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of Dracut Library.

Please register by visiting our website at www.dracutlibrary.org and clicking on our Event Calendar.

New Acquisitions

The following are a brief sampling of new titles due to arrive on our shelves in April. For a complete list. please visit our website.

FICTION

- Kostova, Elisabeth. *The Shadow Land*
- McCall-Smith, Alexander. *My Italian Bulldozer.*

NONFICTION

- Bloomberg, Michael. *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet.*
- Rosenthal, Elisabeth. *An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It back.*

BOOK ON CD

- Deaver, Jeffrey. *The Burial Hour*

IMPORTANT DATES

Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Wednesday April 12, 2017 at 4:30 pm. Director's Office. Open Meeting.

Good Friday

The Library will at 12:00 pm on Friday, April 14th, per union contract.

Patriot's Day

The Library will be closed on Monday, April 17th, in observance of Patriot's Day.

Friends of the Library

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM. All are welcome.