



Director's Report
Tricia Perry
15 March 2016

Programs and Services

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

followed by Author Visit and Book Talk:

On Thursday, May 5th at 7 pm: Vicki Croke, author of *Elephant Company* will be speaking at the Westwood Public Library. Part biography, part war epic, and part wildlife adventure, *Elephant Company* is an inspirational narrative that illuminates a little-known chapter in the annals of wartime heroism. This program will take place following the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library (Friends Meeting 6:30 pm – 7 pm). Author program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

Praise for *Elephant Company*

“This book is about far more than just the war, or even elephants.

This is the story of friendship, loyalty and breathtaking bravery that transcends species. . .

. *Elephant Company* is nothing less than a sweeping tale, masterfully written.”—Sara Gruen, *The New*

York Times Book Review

Talk with a Trustee:

During the months of February and March, Library Trustees spent a Saturday morning in the Main Library and were available for informal conversations with patrons. The next session is this Saturday, March 19th – with Wendy Thornton.

Children's Programming—Our youth services librarians are already gearing up for the Summer Reading Program. This year's general overall topic is sport.

The Children's Summer Reading Theme is On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!

The Teen Theme for this summer is Get In the Game: Read.

Adult Programming - We are also looking into adding a Summer Reading component for adults. The topic would be Exercise Your Mind: Read! 2016 Summer Reading themes tie in nicely with the “Live Simple, Live Better” programming that has already been initiated at the Library. This past month we had about 30 adults participate in the discussion about oils and their potential benefits. In March, Westwood residents Suzie and Rick Canale from Exotic Flowers will work with a capacity crowd to create beautiful spring centerpieces (3/22 at 7 pm); in April, Colin Boisvert (Westwood School's Food Director and Nutritionist) will talk about eating right for your family (4/27 at 7 pm); and Tricia Nelson from Finely Functional will help get us all organized (5/11 at 7 pm).

Islington Branch Book Group: March 9th at 5:30 pm: *All the Light We Cannot See*

Islington Branch Book Share: March 15th at 10:30 am

Main Library –Author Visit and Book Group: Friday, May 20th at 10:30 am

All are invited to join Connie Mayo, author of *The Island of Worthy Boys*. Connie is a local author and this is her first novel – set in and around Boston and Thompson Island (located just off the coast of South Boston in Boston Harbor).

Orphaned in 1889 Boston at age ten, Charles has survived alone on the streets for years, rolling drunks and sleeping in alleys. He's convinced himself he doesn't need anyone. But when his old schoolmate Aidan shows up asking to be cut in, they team up to rob drunken sailors whenever the whores don't get there first. Life is pretty grand, until a routine robbery takes a murderous turn, and they have to skip town before they're cuffed and thrown in the back of the paddy wagon.

With the help of a prostitute that owes Charles a favor, the boys pose as virtuous Protestant brothers and con their way into an island school in Boston Harbor that only admits the "worthy poor". Superintendent Bradley is obsessed with keeping the bad element out of his school, so the boys need to keep their story straight. But their friendship splinters when Aidan's assimilation with the other boys leaves Charles out in the cold. When another boy sniffs out the Irish Catholic in Aidan, and Boston's Finest arrive on the island, the boys must decide: do they face the threat of jail together, or risk being split up forever?

Strategic Plan:

Beginning in February 2016, the Westwood Public Library Trustees and staff began working on the development of a new strategic (long-range) plan for the Library. The Community Survey is now available online (with paper copies also available at several locations including the Main Library, Islington Branch, Town Hall, COA and Recreation Dept.)

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP: The Community Focus Group will meet on **Tuesday, April 26th from 7 pm to 10 pm**. The Westwood town newsletter was delivered to all residents this weekend, and we will finalize the “at large” representatives to the Focus Group on March 20th. The intent is for this group to assist Trustees and staff on the development of assessment tools for the Strategic Plan – including analysis of the social, economic and demographic characteristics of our community and a SOAR assessment of the library:

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|-----------------|--|
| ■ STRENGTHS | <i>WHAT WE'RE DOING WELL</i> |
| ■ OPPORTUNITIES | <i>WHAT CAN WE IMPROVE</i> |
| ■ ASPIRATIONS | <i>WHAT WE'D LIKE TO BECOME</i> |
| ■ RESULTS | <i>WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE FOR US</i> |

MARCH 2016--NEW RELEASES

The Gangster - Clive Cussler

Time of Fog and Fire—Ryhs Bowen

Off the Grid— C.J. Box

Gone Again— James Grippando

A Few of the Girls—Maeve Binchy

The Steal Kiss—Jeffery Deaver

Clawback— J.A. Jance

The Waters of Eternal Youth-Donna Leon

Goodbye to the Dead—Brian Freeman

Far From True—Linwood Barclay

Property of a Noblewoman- Danielle Steel

Private Paris—James Patterson

Deep Blue— Randy Wayne White

Edge of the Orchard - Tracy Chevalier

Fool Me Once— Harlan Coben

No One Knows—J. T. Ellison

The Nest- Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

Devonshire Scream— Laura Childs

Sisi: Empress on Her Own—AllisonPataki

Treachery at Lancaster Gate - Anne Perry

The Total Package—Janet Evanovich

The Summer Before the War—Helen Simonson

Flawless— Heather Graham

Predator—Wilbur Smith

