



The Otto Bruyns Public Library of Northfield

241 W. Mill Rd.
Northfield, N.J. 08225
(609) 646-4476

Mon-Thurs 10 to 8 p.m.
Fri & Sat 10 to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

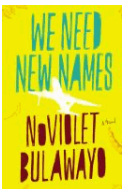
Nflibrary.org
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January - February 2015

Staff Picks: Best of 2014

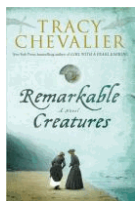
We thought it would be fun for each staff member to pick one book and tell us what it was that made it their most memorable read of 2014. Everyone found it hard to pick just one with so many good titles added to our collection over the past twelve months.

Aubrey: *"We Need New Names"* by NoViolet Bulawayo. The story of a ten year old girl's experiences in Zimbabwe during political unrest and her move to live with an aunt in the United States. "I chose this book," said Aubrey, "because it is so easy to forget when you live in a pretty little corner (like Northfield) of a privileged country (like the U.S.) - it is easy to forget



that your problems are good problems to have. It is easy to lose perspective. This book reminds you. It makes you think hard about community, cultural acceptance, immigration, home, family and quality of life."

Linda: *"Remarkable Creatures"* by Tracy Chevalier. Historical fiction about Mary Anning, who combed the beaches in Lyme Regis, England, in search of "curies", which were actually fossils. She braved landslides on the lime cliffs and the disdain of her male colleagues.



Patti: *"The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle"*, by Joanne Huist Smith. Patti found the book compelling because it told "a story of a secret gift giver who helped a family through a time of terrible loss."

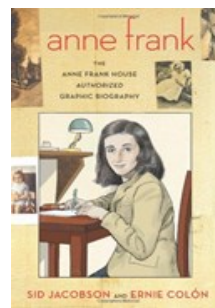


Graphic Novels, Not Just Comics Anymore

Newly acquired graphic novel titles might come as a surprise to our adult, young adult and juvenile readers. They include biographies, history, fiction, coming of age graphic novel and more traditional comics.

While many still see the illustrated books as just comics and "fodder for children", educators are learning that the novels have a profound effect on children's reading. Adult readers, trying the graphic novels for the first time, find them a nice break from their heavier reading.

Surprisingly, some stories are as powerful, or perhaps more powerfully told, using a graphic novel. This writer found that in *"Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography"* by Sid Jacobson & Ernie Colon.



Just some of the graphic novels in the library are *"Action Philosophers"* by Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey. According to the book blurb, "The lives and thoughts of history's a-list brain trust... All the

intellect, but with 100 percent more hilarity." Many of history's philosophers are captured in this work. *"The Gettysburg Address"* written by Jonathan Hennessey. It tells the stories and shows the drama of the Civil War.

If you like thrillers read **Emily Carroll's** *"Through the Woods"*. Lucy Knisley, "Relish: My Life in the Kitchen", says "This book is full of gorgeous, terrifying tales of myste-

Pre-School Story Time Moves from Monday to Tuesdays at 11 a.m. beginning January 2015.

2015: Approaching another great year

In 2014 year the library worked hard to offer to the Northfield community new materials, classes and programs in addition to the tried and true classic library events. In the coming year we hope to improve on some of those educational & entertainment opportunities as well as to try out some more new library experiences. We are determined to bring more of the neighborhood together and to broaden our cultural perspectives.

In 2015 keep a look out for a Little Lending Library to appear. Look forward to computer classes that neighborhood adults can take for free. Stay tuned for coding classes for the kids as well as other opportunities to use new technologies. Don't miss knitting, sewing, and crafty gatherings for the low-tech, traditional among us. We'll be creating a more inviting environment for teens to spend quality creative, supportive, educational and entertaining time.

Most of all in 2015, there will be books and books and more books!

Friends of the Otto Bruyns Public Library of Northfield

Love

Annual Dues Are Due in January

The Friends of the Library have changed the due date for membership dues. Our treasurer would appreciate all dues be paid in January. This makes book work so much easier.

Don't forget the Friends meet the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the library's event room. Please feel free to attend one of our meetings.

Whether or not you attend meetings, you can still be a Friend by supporting us financially. Dues are just \$5.00. The more Friends we have, the more help we can give to the library.

Call Jean, 272-1142, for more information.

A letter from our treasurer...

Dear Member,

Your financial contribution is greatly appreciated. The yearly dues permit the Friends to support the library in many ways. Your continued membership has allowed us to purchase tables, chairs, shelves and other needed equipment. The Friends have provided the children with a variety of parties including prizes, games and entertainment. Adult patrons have enjoyed musical performances, interesting speakers, movies and, of course, the Tea Party. The Friends truly value your continued support.

Thank you,

Jean F. Lawless, Treasurer

Teddy Bear Clinic Becomes Learning Experience For Young Library Patrons

Dr. Chris Keenan, a local pediatrician, came to our Teddy Bear Clinic Saturday, December 6th. He explained to the children all the different instruments a doctor uses during an examination. One by one the bears and other toys were brought to him for splints, bandages or just for some TLC. The Friends thank him for his time as the children had a wonderful experience with the doctor.

January has always been a quiet, hibernation month. The holidays are over, the weather gets gray and cold and there's nothing much to do.

Oh, but then comes February. The weather is still the same but holiday time starts all over again. Valentine cards and boxes of chocolates appear in great numbers in our stores along with jewelry and red roses. Hearts are every-



fills the air, better time to visit our library and love story. Whether it be an oldie like Wuthering Heights or one of our new romance novels, our selections are sure to please. Don't forget to take home one of our DVDs or if a giant screen is more your style, just ask our librarian to show your favorite to a group of your friends in our new event room. Popcorn is always available!

Poetry hits the spot when it comes to Valentines' Day. Browning and Burns come to mind right away, but there is a vast assortment of books on our shelves full of verses that would capture many a heart.

Heartfelt thanks from the Staff

The members of the Northfield Library Staff would like to thank the Friends of the Library for all they've contributed to our success this year.

The Friends coordinate events, provide home cooked refreshments, donate landscaping to keep the front of the Library looking good every year and perform many other necessary tasks.

It is not only the hard work and generosity of this group that makes it such an asset to the library. They are a fun loving bunch of community members who use their intellects and eclectic talents for the library's benefit. The youthful energy and fresh, innovative ideas that members bring give our library an edge.

The Staff

Graphic Novels cont. from Page 1

rious wooded misadventures that creep right into your brain and seduce you." Some authors/illustrators have captured their memoirs in graphical novels. **Ann Marie Fleming produced "the Magical Life of Long Tack Sam"** and **"Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo & Me" is a graphic memoir by Ellen Forney.** For Young Adult (YA) readers there's **"Same difference" by Derek Kirk Kim**, a series of short stories following a group of friends as they navigate young adulthood and relationships. For our growing population of juvenile readers we have new **graphic Pokemon** books. There's **Thea Stilton and Geronimo Stilton graphic novel series.** Some of the first illustrated books acquired in 2014 are **"The Bird, the Beast and the Lizard: X-Men. First Class" by Jeff Parker** and **"The Buddy System: Wolverine, First Class" by Fred Van Lente.** Also by Van Lente are "The Bunker" from the Iron Man series. Our collection includes works describing how to create and illustrate graphic novels. **"Graphic Novel, You Write It!" by John Hamilton** and **"Manga for the Beginner. Midnight Monsters: How to Draw Zombies, Vampires, and Other Delightfully Devious Characters of Japanese Comics" by Christopher Hart** are just two of the new books. Others are nonfiction accounts on the history of Graphic Novels. These are just some of the many new graphic novels on our shelves.

"I realized that graphic novels were more complex than I first thought." She continues, "The artistic rendering of the story contributes to half the ability to comprehend it fully; therefore, the illustrations are equally as important as the text. The illustrations add the information and detail missing from the text."

Paula E. Griffith, University of Houston, Clear Lake Texas in the Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy 54(3), November 2010 (<http://racomics.pbworks.com/f/GN%27s+in+High+School.pdf>).

A Tour of Poetry for Seniors Sponsored by the Stockton Center on Successful Aging

The library continues to host the SCOSA "Tour of Poetry for Seniors". On Saturday, January 10th, 11 a.m. the workshop welcomes Kirpal Gordon. The workshop on Saturday, February 14th, 11 a.m. will feature a presentation by Michelle Ovalle.



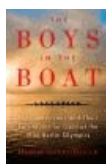
LEGO Club in 2015: Earn Badges toward Master Builder Degree



Beginning in 2015, we will be stepping it up. By building weekly creations, students will be able to earn badges toward getting their Otto Bruyns Master Builder Degree. Our more focused approach will allow us as a team to accomplish larger projects and as individuals to acquire new skill sets. The library continues to seek donations and apply for grants in order to purchase from Lego Education and develop solid lesson plans that will more fully engage students. Without the right bits and pieces, bricks and wheels, we can not complete organized projects which is where the real learning begins.

(LEGO Club started as a Summer Program in 2014 and evolved into a weekly program that has continued to meet throughout the year on Friday afternoons at 3:15. We have about a dozen regular members at this point and are always welcoming new students.)

Staff PicksCont. From Page 1



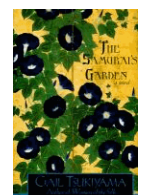
Mary: "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown. Mary said the book was "an exciting non-fiction work telling the remarkable story of a group of dedicated rowers from the University of Washington in the 1936 Olympic Games held in Germany."

Jo: "Let's Just Say It Wasn't Pretty" by Diane Keaton. "The reason I liked this book was because I could hear Diane's voice, and her way of saying things. She has always been insecure about her looks - her hair, etc. - so she adopted her own style -very clever of her, I thought. - Plus I do admire her as both an actress and a single mom who adopted a son and a daughter!"



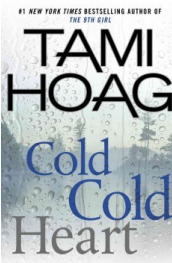
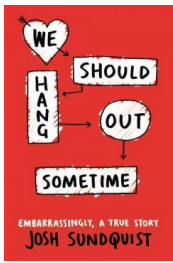
Mary Ann: My favorite 2014 book was **"Tempting Fate"** by Jane Green. The author tells a story of all the ups and downs of a modern day wife. I liked this book because it was impossible to guess the ending.

Russ: "The Samurai's Garden" by Gail Tsukiyama. A story of an old man's lifelong love and loyalty for a woman shunned by society since her teens because they find her condition so repulsive. A giant of a man, he deals with her condition with creativity, delicacy, and subtlety. What endures in my memory is the sense of beauty and peace crafted by the author.



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The due date for annual dues is January of each year. As of now, most due dates are January, 2015.

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Sunday Closed

**The Newsletter is
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of the Northfield Library**