



director's letter

We are getting ready for a second Big Read project in Shrewsbury. The National Endowments for the Arts has awarded us a second grant to conduct a community wide reading project around a single book. Last year we read Willa Cather's *My Antonia* and focused on the immigration experience. This year we selected a more modern book, one of a very different nature. We'll be reading Tim O'Brien's novel *The Things They Carried*. Our project will focus on the experience of war for the veteran and those left behind during war. Although this story focuses on the Vietnam War, we will broaden the theme to include war experience across the generations. And we'll be digging deeper than the historical record of war. We'll consider personal stories and the impact of war on the individual. This book is a great starting point. Although it's a fiction title that mixes both memoir and fantasy, it addresses the life altering experiences of soldiers and their loved ones. I think

"The way history intersects with the personal or individual experience can be intriguing."

this will be a very interesting theme for discussion. The way history intersects with the personal or individual experience can be intriguing. I've often considered my parents' lives and the momentous times in which they lived. My dad served in both WWII and Korea, but spoke little of his experiences. However, I'm sure those experiences shaped him, my mother, and their life together during the intervening years. I also recall an enlightening lesson about history during my school years. A fifth grade school assignment required me to interview an elder about their most important life experience. I decided to interview an elderly neighbor named Eugene Mullane, who I knew was over 90 years old. It was a rather odd selection, as Mr. Mullane was known to be cross and impatient with children. In fact, I'd had my own experiences with him.

Continued on next page...

friends' news

Pastel Workshop Returns!

Pastel artist Greg Maichack returns to teach another class of pastel painting. Monet's Magic Garden: how to pastel paint as Impressionists. A pastel hands-on workshop for adults, with all materials included. Limited to 20. **Pre-registration required**; call 508-842-0081 x 3 to sign up.



Thank You For Your Hard Work!

On Saturday, June 27th, members of the Friends and other volunteers helped rake, weed, fill wheelbarrows full of mulch, add color to the flowerpots, and other tasks, all to make our property shine for the summer months. Volunteers included Friends of the Library Board members and supporters Carrie Hendricks, Jim Colman and Kathi Colman, and Dot Perkins. Special thanks also goes to Jonathan Alex, Alan George, and Stan Pearson, members of Boy Scout Troop 158 of St. Mary's Parrish, who provided extra energy and enthusiasm that helped lighten the workload for the day. Finally, thank you to Jim Colman and Carrie Hendricks who spent a second Saturday morning (on July 4th no less!) making sure the Veteran's Monument at the corner was weeded and mulched.

adult programs



Archaeology at the Statue of Liberty

Monday, Oct. 19th at 7PM

Archaeologist Tonya Largy of Wayland, Mass., will present a program on her experience working at the site of the Statue of Liberty in 1985. Her talk will include a slide presentation. An Archaeology Month presentation.

Film & Discussion

Wednesday, Oct. 28th at 7PM

Join archaeologist Daniel Fernandez-Davila from Wayland, Mass., for a showing of a new National Geographic film on the Peruvian discoveries he worked on, to be followed by an open discussion. Free, open to all interested. An Archaeology Month presentation.



general news

New Database Donation

The Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union has donated Optimal Resume, a resume building tool, to local residents. The site can be accessed from the library website: <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>



English Conversation Circle

Weekly sessions where non-native English speakers can practice speaking English in a safe environment. These informal meetings will be facilitated by Priya Rathnam, Children's librarian. Register at the front desk beginning September 1st or call 508-842-0081 x3.

director's letter *continued...*

In the past, my mother had sent my brother and me to shovel his long driveway. Once we'd labored to the top of the driveway, we were greeted by angry words. With his door swung wide open, he'd sternly tell us "Go away, I'm not too old to do it myself." Appeals to my mother to avoid shoveling in other storms only brought the response "Go on, he doesn't really mind and it will be good for your character." Unfortunately, my mother thought most non-desirous tasks were good for character building. The prospect of an interview with Mr. Mullane was frightening, but I felt his advanced age would garner high marks on my school assignment. I mustered the courage to call him on the phone and ask "What was the most important moment in your life". After repeating the question a few times to accommodate his deafness, I waited for his curt response. "I need to think about it." The line went dead. I guessed he would not call back and I would have to find another "old person." However, he called the next day and with a look of surprise, my mother handed me the receiver. With no greeting or introduction, Mr. Mullane blurted out "The most important day of my life was when the war ended." I'm not sure I realized he was referring to WWI and the 1918 armistice. In my excitement over his call, I forgot my fear, and began to correct him. "No Mr. Mullane, I need to know about the most important day in your life." He quietly confirmed, "That was the most important day in my life."

This was a bit of a revelation to me. I began to understand that the dates and details of battles were only a small part of history. I began to see the much deeper meaning of the past, that it involved people like Mr. Mullane and his personal involvement in one of our nation's historic moments.

Recently I made a trip to Washington, D.C., and was intrigued by the collision of history and personal story to be found there. The interconnectedness of time, people, and history is evident in the landmarks of the city. Its great buildings and memorials are drenched in the history of our nation. As I toured the war monuments, Lincoln Memorial and the Capital Building, I reflected on the book we are undertaking for this second Big Read. I found myself trying to imagine the personal story behind each historic marker and monument. The vignettes depicted around the entry to the WWII monument were the most direct in making this connection. Each scene shows how various people (the soldiers, their families, and the nation) were changed by the war.

Later we made our way to Maryland, and enjoyed a trip on the Shenandoah National Park Skyline Drive. In a small market along the way, I found a history of the Skyline's construction, which the Civilian Conservation Corps (the CCC's) built during the early 1930s. In one chapter, the author noted that the CCC experience shaped these young men, and gave them the physical strength, emotional discipline, and new skills that would serve our country well during WWII. I remembered my own father's experiences in the CCC's in Massachusetts. He said that when he signed up, he was just over 120 pounds and stood only 5'7" tall. He said the hard work and good food added 50 pounds and 6 inches. Although he never spoke of the less tangible results, I'm sure he gained discipline and emotional strength that served him later in life. Standing in front of the WWII monument, I reflected that my dad was truly part of that "greatest generation" and that he had been shaped by his part in our nation's history, the Great Depression, and the wars that followed.

It's that intertwining of personal experience and history, with its common themes across the generations, which will make this Big Read a very rewarding project. I hope you'll read the book and participate in the various offerings. I give an advance warning that this is a very harsh book, with both disturbing language and stories. However, I still recommend it. It can be one story, among many, to help us understand the personal sacrifices involved in war.

You can find copies of the book here at the library. Free paperback copies of the book will be given to the first 100 people to stop by the library and request one. The library also has many copies to lend. I hope you'll join us in book discussions, share your war or homefront stories, and join others in exploring the common emotions, challenges and lessons learned by the people of a nation at war.

Ellen Dolan, Library Director

general news

Garden in the Woods Pass Donated

The Shrewsbury Garden Club has generously donated a Garden in the Woods museum pass for families in Shrewsbury to use! You can reserve a museum pass at the Library's website, <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>

Local Donors Help Summer Readers

A special thank you for all of the local businesses and individuals who donated prizes to the 2009 Summer Reading Program. Among the donors: 5 Wits of Boston, The Christmas Tree Shop, Dunkin' Donuts, The Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library, The Shrewsbury Public Library Trustees, and others.

Basket Raffle Returns!

Once again SPLAT will be holding their annual basket raffle to raise money for teen programs in the library. Look for the baskets in the lobby and purchase some tickets to help a great cause! The raffle will run through the month of October. If you would like to donate a basket to the raffle, contact Young Adult Librarian Dan Barbour at dbarbour@cwmar.org

AIC Donates Microfilm

The American International College has graciously donated the New York Times on microfilm from 1851-1970 to the library.

Town of Shrewsbury Scholarship Program

Tax-deductible donations to the Town of Shrewsbury Scholarship Fund are accepted year round. Please send checks to: Shrewsbury Scholarship Fund, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. You may also donate online on the town's website: www.shrewsbury-ma.gov

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTSTHE **BIG
READ**

Shrewsbury Public Library



This Year's Selection:

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Tracing the tour of one American platoon, this book is not just a tale of the Vietnam War, although it's considered one of the finest books ever about combat. This award-winning book is a brutal, sometimes funny, often profound narrative about the human heart—how it fares under pressure, and what it can endure. While the book focuses on Vietnam vets, we will broaden our vision to include war stories (both from vets and from the home front) across the generations.

special event guide



Big Read Kick-Off Event

Date & Time to Be Determined

With assistance from the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library, we will launch our second BigRead project this November. Look for details as they develop.

Girl Power: The Supremes as a Cultural Icon



Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6:30 PM

Every decade has its musical phenomenon. The 1960s had Motown...and Motown had The Supremes. Take a trip back in time, to an era when the music of Motown reigned supreme, in this light-hearted, humorous and entertaining stroll through pop music history. Led by Tom Ingrassia, a motivational speaker, life coach, writer, and pop music historian.

***"Informative, fast-moving, and fascinating.
It is a presentation not to be missed."***

- Rockie Blunt, Blunt Consulting Group

The Aftermath of Vietnam: One Vet's Experience

Monday, Nov. 30 - 7:00PM

Karl Chapin of South Grafton lost his right hand in Vietnam, but now has a \$70,000 bionic hand. He will speak about his experience and demonstrate his new prosthetic arm. Free and open to all interested.

***"...don't believe him when he says that
he's not a hero."***

- David Wade, WBZ-TV Boston

The Veteran Show

The Library is seeking individuals to be interviewed on what being a veteran means to them, or what it means to have a veteran in the family. If you are interested in being a part of this very special production which will run on local cable access, contact the Library Director, Ellen Dolan at edolan@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us

BIG READ FUN FACT:

Last year in Shrewsbury over 1,300 people took part in 44 events throughout the community! Last year's book was *My Antonia* by Willa Cather.

The above events are just a sampling of the many activities we're planning. Look for the following: numerous book discussion groups, concerts of military music and music of the 1960s, talks by well-known authors and veterans, a scholar-guided tour of the Vietnam War Memorial in Worcester, and much, much more. Watch for details at the Library, in the newspapers, or on Shrewsbury Cable.

Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" Book Discussion Groups



Date & Time	Location
Friday, Nov. 13 (10 am)	Shrewsbury Public Library
Monday, Nov. 16 (7 pm)	Shrewsbury Public Library
Wed., Nov. 18 (1:30pm)	Shrewsbury Towers
Thurs., Nov. 19 (8 am)	Senior Center (Conference Room)
Tues., Nov. 24 (7 pm)	Fire Station Head Quarters

Date & Time	Location
Wed., Nov. 25 (2:30 pm)	Shrewsbury Public Library
Thursday, Dec. 3 (1 pm)	Senior Center (Conference Room)
Monday, Dec. 7 (2pm)	Southgate
Date To Be Determined	Ray Stone Post (238 Main St.)

Check with the library for additional sessions.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Help Us With Our Display!

The Library will be having a display of war memorabilia for the month of November. If you would like to loan items from any war to the display, e-mail the Library Director, Ellen Dolan at edolan@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us Items should be submitted in mid-October for the display, and will be kept in a locked viewing case. Ideas include old letters, badges, ribbons, uniforms, etc.



Friends of the Library Annual Meeting



Wednesday, October 7, 6:30PM

After a brief business meeting, join presenters David Jennings and Hallie Larkin as they explain what the daily life experience of soldiers and civilians during the American Civil War was like. During this hands-on presentation, the audience will be able to handle both original and reproduction equipment and clothing. Refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library, as a complement to the Library' Big Read program. A copy of the novel "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien will be raffled off.

the
**little
read**

Children can also take part in the festivities of the Big Read! As "The Things They Carried" is geared towards adults, the Children's Room has selected *Shooting the Moon* by Frances O'Roark Dowell as a kid-friendly companion to the event. Look for great events in the Children's Room centered around this book.

Storyteller Event Saturday, November 14th at 10:30AM

Award-winning storyteller Mary Jo Maichack will stop by the Library to present exciting multicultural tales, including the special story "Why Rooster Crows at Sunrise." Free tickets available on Friday, October 30th.



children's events

Fall Story Times

September 10, 17, 24
October 8, 22
November 5, 12, 19



All story times begin at 10:30AM

Listen to stories and do a craft. No age limits. No registration required.



Back to School

Tuesday, Sep. 1, 10:30 AM

Back to school day for mom and those siblings "left behind". Listen to stories, do a craft, and share in refreshments and friendship. No registration required.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, Sep. 26, 10AM

Certified therapy pets Kuma and Willow are a wonderful way to encourage reluctant readers or children who would like to practice their reading skills. For children in Grades K - 4. Register in the Children's Room or call (508) 842-0081x4. Volunteers and dogs will be provided by "Paws For People."

Intro to Archaeology



Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:30AM

Learn how archaeologists explore the past. Join Craig Chartier for this hands-on and interactive program. Space is very limited. Register starting September 18th. Sponsored by the Whitney Family. For children in grades K-4.

Diwali Storytime

Thursday, Oct. 15, 10:30AM

Come celebrate Diwali—the Indian festival of lights. Listen to stories and make a craft. No registration required.



The Big Boo!

Thursday, October 29th, 4PM

Make the library your first chance to show off your Halloween costume for this year! For children ages 3 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Come in your costume and trick or treat around the Library. Listen to scary stories! Registration is required and will begin Monday, Oct. 1 in the Children's Room or by calling (508) 842-0081 x4.

Library Buds

September 5, October 3, November 7 - 8:30AM

Want to do some behind-the-scene library work? Very limited enrollment, so please call soon. 508-842-0081 x4. For students in grades 4-7.

youth events (teens & tweens)



Youth Trivia Showdown!

Wednesday, September 16, 6:30PM

Register now at the library for a fun night of trivia, pizza, prizes, and excitement as teens will face off in a variety of topics! Teens from all of Central Massachusetts are invited to compete and represent their community. Everyone who attends (if registered) will get free pizza and soda while supplies last. Parents are welcome to come and be in the audience.

Sponsored by...



Video Game Afternoon

Day off of school! Friday, October 9, 1PM-4PM



Teenagers and 'tweens in grades 5-12 can stop by the library to play some of the newest and fun video games. From Rock Band, to Guitar Hero, Mario Kart Wii, to Boom Blox, there will be something for everyone! Pizza will be served while supplies last! Sponsored by Fidelity Investments and CMRLS.

Second Annual Writing Comp.

Submissions Due November 1st.

Due to last year's huge success of the vampire writing competition, in which over 80 local teens entered, we're hosting another writing competition event! This year's topic and entry form will be released on the SPLAT Blog (<http://www.splatatspl.blogspot.com/>) on Monday, September 7th, giving entrants plenty of time to work on their creations before the November 1st deadline. Entrants must be a Shrewsbury resident in grades 5-12. Entering is 100% free, and the top **three** finishers will earn prizes this year!



Shrewsbury Public Library
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Library Hours

Mon.-Wed. 10AM-9PM
Thurs. & Fri. 10AM-5PM
Sat. 9AM-5PM (Winter/Spring/Fall)
Sun. 1PM-5PM (Winter/Spring/Fall)

Contact Information

Phone: 508-842-0081
Fax: 508-841-8540
TTY: 508-841-8530
www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library

sunday sponsorships 2009 - 2010 season

4 sundays

Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

2 sundays

Shrewsbury Lions Club
Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library

1 sunday

Webster Five Cents Savings Bank
Shrewsbury Firefighters Association
Yu-Bin Liang and Wei Kong Yeoh
Gerald Isaacson
Amica Insurance
Shrewsbury Social Club (formerly known as the Welcome Wagon)
The Rotary Club of Shrewsbury
One Anonymous Donor

Thanks to the generous sponsors who helped sustain Sunday afternoon hours at the library these past four years. Our 2009/2010 Sunday season begins October 4, 2009, and we hope to have enough support to provide service through May 23, 2010. As of mid-July 2009, individuals, businesses and community groups have donated funds to keep the library open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. each Sunday afternoon. Additional sponsorships are welcomed. The cost for sponsoring one Sunday is \$575. Please contact the Library Director at (508) 841-8537 if you wish to provide a sponsorship or need more information.