



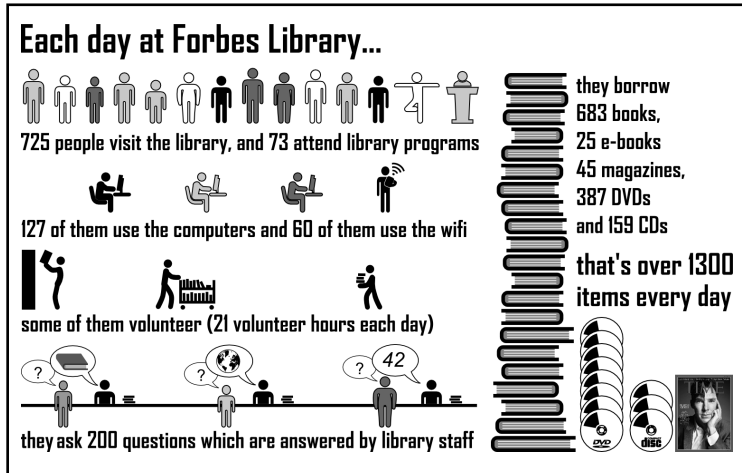
# FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends of Forbes Newsletter

Winter 2014-15

Volume 6, Issue 3



This infographic, created by Benjamin Kalish, visually conveys just how heavily the Forbes Library is used. A larger, more complete version can be viewed on the library's website.

## 'Treasures' Exhibition to Showcase Historical Art and Artifacts

A special exhibition at Hosmer Gallery, featuring rarely seen art and artifacts from the library's extensive special collections, will open Jan. 6 and run through January. *Treasures of the Forbes Library Special Collections* will feature works that are visually fascinating not only as historical documentation but also as graphic art and as tangible artifacts of Northampton's past.

Archivist Julie Bartlett Nelson and Arts & Music Librarian Faith Kaufmann have curated a selection of photographs, prints, letters, diaries, paintings, posters, and objects of historical significance from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Many have never been on display before. As a group they shed insight on the lives of the area's residents and the artists and collectors who documented and preserved Northampton's past.

Some of the oldest items to be on display are photographs of Northampton's Civil War veterans, broadsides from the mid-1800s,



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## State Awards Disability Grant to Library

Forbes Library has been awarded a two-year, \$18,100 grant to improve library services to people with disabilities. The project is being funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funds from LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), a federal source of library funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. With the help of the grant, Forbes Library will provide equipment, software, staff training, and public programming to enhance services to patrons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have vision difficulties. The library will also create a new disability advisory board to increase communication between the library and people with disabilities.

A recent American Community Survey estimated that 7.2 percent of Northampton residents live with a disability, including 5.3 percent with hearing difficulty and 5.7 percent with a vision difficulty. Forbes Library has made building and grounds improvements during renovations to improve physical access to the library. Most recently the library has completed fundraising for a handicapped access elevator to be installed in the front entry to provide reliable access into the building.

"The library is committed to providing services to all of its residents and we feel the time is right to address improvements to the services to people with disabilities," said Library Director Janet Moulding.

Among the specific objectives for this grant are to make library programs more accessible to people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing; to improve customer service at service desks to people with disabilities; increase community awareness of library services available to people with disabilities; and to create and maintain an ongoing relationship with the disability community in Northampton.

Lisa Downing, the library's assistant director, said the grant will help pay for equipment, including assistive listening devices, special staff training, and JAWS computer software for people who have trouble with vision. (JAWS, which stands for Jobs Access With Speech, is a computer screen reading program.)

The grant project began in October and will be completed in 2016. The library will collaborate with area agencies and individuals. If you are interested in learning more about this grant or have suggestions contact Lisa Downing at 413-587-1017.

## Hosmer Gallery Schedule

DECEMBER 2014

**Joan Dix Blair**

Monoprints

**Annie Bisset**

Woodblock prints

JANUARY 2015

Treasures of Special Collections

FEBRUARY 2015

**Meredith Howe Jones**

Photographs

**Edward Los**

Photographs

**Izudin Lelic**

Photographs



MARCH 2015

**Louis Leone**

Handcrafted wooden vehicles



**Diana MacKenzie**

Mixed media: abstract

**Lynne Adams**

Drawings



APRIL 2015

**Walter Cudnohufsky**

Watercolors

MAY 2015

Northampton High School  
Student Show



## Fall Arrives in Style with Friends' Wine Tasting Gala

The Friends of Forbes Library's fourth annual wine tasting fundraiser took place on a beautiful fall evening at the end of September. The doors of the library were open wide as more than 200 people gathered in the building, which was transformed into a merry setting of wine, food, music, and conversation. Guests were treated to 14 different vendors of wine and spirits, live jazz from the mezzanine, floral bouquets on every surface, and a

wide variety of delectable hors d'oeuvres served by students from Northampton High School.

A number of exciting raffle prizes donated by area merchants added to the festivities. The Friends are grateful to all the generous sponsors and donors who helped make the evening such a big success, and we are already looking forward to our fifth wine tasting in the fall of 2015.



**Florence Savings Bank**

**Customers' Choice**  
COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Customers' Choice Community Grants Program is an annual program that allows Florence Savings Bank customers to vote for their favorite local non-profit to receive a share of \$75,000.

*Friends of Forbes Library, Inc.*

name of local non-profit

*Northampton, MA*

city/state

your name

e-mail

**Your Vote Counts!**

*You must be an FSB customer to vote.*

Mail or drop off at any of our offices or vote online at [www.florencesavings.com/vote](http://www.florencesavings.com/vote).

*All votes must be received before December 31*

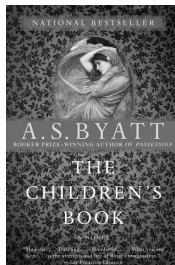


## If You Like Downton Abbey ...

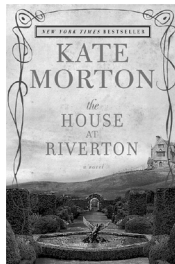
*Downton Abbey* returns for a fifth season on Jan. 4. If you're a fan of the show, you're no doubt impatient to find out, among many other things, what happens to Mr. Bates and Anna. Perhaps you've already rewatched every episode on video. So here are some books and films (all available at Forbes Library) that you might enjoy while waiting for more quips from the Dowager Countess of Grantham.

### Books

*The Children's Book*, by A.S. Byatt. A tale spanning from the Victorian era through World War I finds famous children's book author Olive Wellwood taking in a runaway who reminds her of her own characters.



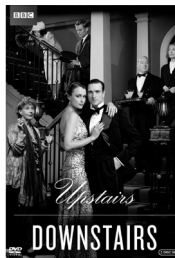
*The House at Riverton*, by Kate Morton. Ninety-eight-year-old Grace remembers the secrets surrounding the 1928 suicide of a young poet during a glittering society party hosted by Grace's English aristocrat employers.



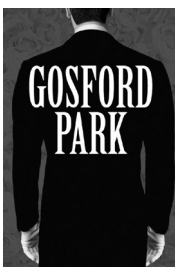
*Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey: The Lost Legacy of Highclere Castle*, by Fiona Carnarvon. Examines the life of Lady Almina, the fifth Countess of Carnarvon, and the events in Highclere Castle during the First World War.

### Movies and TV Shows

*Upstairs, Downstairs* After a new family moves into the house belonging to the Bellamys, the former housemaid hires a new staff for the family, and the aristocrats and their servants try to find a way to peacefully share their living space.

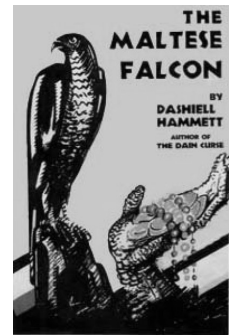


*Gosford Park* A group of wealthy Britons and an American and their servants gather for a weekend hunting party in the English country, when a mysterious murder occurs.



*The Importance of Being Earnest* Two friends unknowingly use the same pseudonym when romancing their ladies, causing much confusion in this 2002 adaptation of Oscar Wilde's play.

## 'All Hamptons Read' Chooses Classic Noir Detective Novel



Forbes Library is partnering with Lilly Library and the libraries in Easthampton, Southampton and Westhampton to present the "Big Read" in March and April. Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Friends of Forbes Library, the program will invite readers to participate in book discussions, film screenings and other events with the goal of promoting reading and literacy as well as sparking community discussion based on the themes of the book. The book chosen for 2015 is the classic detective novel *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett.

"Yes, it is a detective novel—one of the best ever written," said David Kipen, who helped develop the Big Read at the NEA. "It's also a brilliant literary work, as well as a thriller, a love story, and a dark, dry comedy. The only criticism one could offer Hammett's private-eye classic is that it is so much fun to read, it might be hard the first time through to realize how deeply observed and morally serious it is."

*The Maltese Falcon* was first published in 1930, and in 1941 Humphrey Bogart starred in the film adaptation as the hard-boiled detective hero Sam Spade. The Modern Library, a publishing company owned by Random House, ranked *The Maltese Falcon* 56th on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

The committee organizing the event, "All Hamptons Read," comprises local librarians, booksellers, teachers, and community members. In the fall of 2013 the committee presented a successful program based on the book *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John. The nonfiction work recounts the extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team led by Luma Mufleh, a graduate of Smith College.

Copies of the *Maltese Falcon* and a schedule of events will be available at the library in January.



### Wednesday, December 10

is the day when you and your neighbors across Western Massachusetts come together to support your favorite causes.

Please consider making a gift to Forbes Library.  
Visit [www.razoo.com/Trustees\\_Of\\_The\\_Forbes\\_Library](http://www.razoo.com/Trustees_Of_The_Forbes_Library).

Remember 12-10-14  
*We hope to hear from you!*

## Briefs

### Grant to Conserve Civil War Collection

Forbes Library has received a \$2700 state matching grant to preserve its collection of Civil War documents and artifacts. In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, funding was approved in the state's 2014 budget to help preserve the Commonwealth's Civil War history. The collection includes original diaries, account books, regimental histories, personal war sketches, and more than 200 individual photographic portraits of members of Northampton's William L. Baker Post 86 of the Grand Army of the Republic. The grant will fund the purchase of archival-quality housing, the digitization of documents, and the creation of both a physical and online exhibit. Forbes' inventory of materials will be added to a statewide searchable database of Massachusetts' Civil War resources.

### New Monthly Minecraft Club to Meet Nov. 24

The Children's Department has started a new club for kids and young adults who love playing one of the world's hottest video games, Minecraft. Once a month the club gathers in the community room and uses library laptops to play the game together. Minecraft puts players in a 3D world where they use creative and strategic skills to construct almost anything out of "Lego style" cubes. Minecraft may be a video game, but it certainly isn't mindless. It encourages kids to use critical thinking and a creative mind. Kids can either play on the same server or play solo, while giving each other crafting tips, help with building structures, or instructions for game modifications.

### Toddler Time

Let's play and learn together! On Wednesdays at 11 a.m., the young adult room is taken over by toddlers! Toddlers and their adults join Ellen and Miss Bumblebee for a half hour of story time, talking with puppets, hokey pokey, singing songs, and the very special bubble-time. These interactions encourage a child's social development, language skills, and movement coordination. Join us!

*Treasures cont'd.*

and Sioux beadwork given to Calvin Coolidge during his presidency. Recently acquired materials to be exhibited for the first time include photographs of Pioneer Valley Ballet's early productions in the 1980s, donated by artist Maurine Sutter, and art created for the annual "Show Us Your Bra" auctions benefiting the Breast Form Fund from 1994-2010.

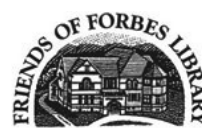
The Forbes Library maintains extensive resources in local history and genealogy. The Hampshire Room for Local History and Special Collections houses manuscripts, maps, account



books and town papers, and thousands of photographs and other images documenting the history of Northampton, Florence and Leeds. The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum collects, preserves, and makes available research materials documenting the public and private life of Calvin Coolidge, 30th president of the United States.

*Treasures of the Forbes Library Special Collections, Hosmer Gallery, Jan. 6-31. The public is invited to a reception on Arts Night Out, Friday, Jan. 9 from 5-8 p.m.*

**OverDrive**  
**Curl up**  
with an **eBook**  
<http://digitalbooks.cwnma.org>



### Join your Friends to Support Forbes Library

The Friends of Forbes is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help and enrich the Forbes Library so it may better serve the public. Through its membership and various fundraising activities the Friends of Forbes provides financial support for programs, projects, events and materials whose costs are not met from the library's annual operating budget.

- We/I wish to join as a new member of the Friends of Forbes Library
- We/I wish to renew my membership to the Friends of Forbes Library
- Senior Citizen \$15
- Individual \$20
- Family \$35
- Supporting \$50-\$149
- Sustaining \$150-\$499
- Benefactor \$500-\$1000

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street address

city/state/zip

e-mail

- We/I wish to make an additional donation of \$ to the Friends of Forbes Endowment Fund
- Please send more information about the Friends of Forbes Endowment Fund