



THE BEAMAN BROWSER

Published quarterly by The Beaman Memorial Public Library, West Boylston, MA 01583
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Website: <http://www.beamanlibrary.org>



How to reach us:

Main Desk: 508.835.3711
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Library Hours:

Tues. 10 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wed. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Fri. 1 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Closed Sun. & Mon.



Friends Annual Book Sale!

Find a bargain at the Annual book sale on:

Friday, April 3 1-5
Sat., April 4 10-2
Sun. April 5 1-4

Volunteers, save the date!

The volunteer luncheon will be held on April 18.



Public Meetings:

Beaman Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees

will meet on March 3, 2009, April 14, 2009, and May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Muriel Stiles Meeting Room.

The Friends of the Beaman Library will meet on March 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Muriel Stiles Meeting Room.

The public is always welcome at any or all these meetings.



We are a charter member of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System.

Prospect of a 10% Cut & Call for Action

The fact that the Town faces budget cuts is not news for the readers of this newsletter. Town Meeting participants have been wrestling with fiscal constraints and making tough decisions for nearly a decade. How will a cut in the magnitude of 10% affect the community and the way people use the library? How important is the library to the residents of West Boylston? Do you know that cuts could put the Town's library's certification in jeopardy? If that happens West Boylston residents will only be able to "sign out" materials at the Beaman Memorial. All other library cards a resident may have will become invalid.

64% of the Town's residents hold active library cards and have used them in the past three years. Additionally, 787 residents hold cards from other local libraries to take advantage of the benefits of on-line catalogs and database services.

The Town of West Boylston anticipates at least a 10% cut in State Aid for the next budget year (2009-2010). Combined with lower than expected receipts, the finance director anticipates a short-fall of nearly \$2 million. In response, the Department Heads have been asked to put together impact statements reflecting a 10% cut in the amount of municipal funding each receives. The Library's share of the 10% cut is approximately \$31,365.

A 10% cut will affect those using the library in three areas: staffing, materials, and maintenance. We will reduce the staff by one person thereby reducing the number of people available to help out at the desk, plan programs, and do all the behind-the-scenes work. Those remaining will need to pick up those essential activities while still doing their own jobs. Although a large number of dedicated volunteers already supplement the library staff, we will need to train additional volunteers and retain those that have served the community so well over the years.

The materials budget will be cut by 10% meaning fewer books, magazines, DVDs, and audio books will be available for loan. We will need to depend on monetary donations from the public and the support of the Friends more than ever. We currently expend at the lowest level possible for a community our size and still keep our certification; if we fall below that level West Boylston residents would be unable to borrow materials from any other public library but our own.

The Trustees commit considerable funds to the ongoing and long-term maintenance of the building. This 10% cut will require cutting back considerably on the weekly maintenance of the building likely resulting in costly repairs or replacements sooner rather than later.

The most important concern for the community is this: any cuts made at Town Meeting must be done in an equitable way among the Town's budgets and Departments. Failure to make necessary cuts in this manner will inevitably lead to a loss of Library Certification with the State. Non-certification not only means loss of access to millions of titles, but means loss of state aid and grants. These are funds that the Trustees already apply annually to the library budget to provide current levels of library service to the Town.

West Boylston has a large investment in the library: a wonderful building, excellent collection, exemplary children's services, and a well-trained and dedicated staff. Continuing to support the library is the best way to protect this investment. Public libraries are the bargain we all need when the economy is down.

The Trustees understand that shrinking budgets demand a lot of hard choices be made. When it comes time to make those decisions we ask everyone, especially those fortunate enough to not need to take advantage of the library and its resources, to think about how many people must turn to the library because they have no other choice. Speak up and be heard!

Louise Howland
Director

ADULT EVENTS

Adult Book Discussion Group

Have you considered joining our Book Discussion Group? It's an easy-going group with interesting discussions. Extra copies of the selected books are available at the circulation desk one month in advance. BDG is typically held on the third Thursday of the month from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Join us for one book, the books that interest you, or every month!

Interested in an Evening Book Group? Stop by the desk at the library and leave your name and phone number. We hope to start a monthly group soon!

Call for Entries to the Annual Arts & Crafts Exhibit

Entries are welcome in any medium from West Boylston residents of all ages. Entries must be ready for display; pictures should be framed and ready to hang. Entries must be submitted **by 5 p.m. Friday, May 8th** with an entry form, available at the library or [online](#).

Visit the exhibit **during regular library hours from May 12-22**. Or join the artists for refreshments at our **Exhibit Opening and Artist Reception on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.** Call the library for more details.

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Expatriate Games: My Season of Misadventures in Czech Semi-Pro Basketball with author, **David Fromm**



Get ready for March Madness by sharing David's account of what he cheerfully calls his "misadventures." Without speaking the language or having any idea whether or not they played basketball in Prague, David graduated from Boston College and moved to Europe. His story is both funny and entertaining; don't miss this talk.

Saturday March 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program



Clint McFarland, Federal Program Director, will present a program on the Asian Beetle problem here in West Boylston and the surrounding area. The program will be followed by a question and answer session. Learn how to identify infested trees and what steps to take to protect our hardwood forests.

Saturday, April 11, 2009 at 11 a.m.

Local Author, Doris Soderman recounts this story for all ages, *Emma Eliza Bucknell, Titanic Survivor*

Indulge your fascination with the story of *The Titanic* and her survivors by attending this talk about the life and fate of Emma Eliza Bucknell. Mrs. Bucknell, at the age of sixty, helped row a lifeboat containing 43 passengers away from the sinking *Titanic*; she was rescued in Lifeboat 8 along with the Unsinkable Molly Brown. Bucknell University of Lewisburg, PA is named after her husband in recognition of saving the college from financial ruin.



Thursday April 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Local author, John M. O'Toole discusses *Return to Zion: A Novel of the American Revolution*



John M. O'Toole, retired professor of History and Political Science at Worcester State College, will discuss the process he went through writing the fictional account of Jeremy "Jemmy" Thorpe's experience during the American Revolution. John is the author of *Tornado! 94 Minutes; 84 Lives*, the story of the Worcester tornado in 1953.

Multimedia Self Portraits with Cate Prato

Saturday, May 2 from 12 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



In this workshop for teens and adults, West Boylston resident Cate Prato, author of *Mixed-Media Self-Portraits: Inspiration & Techniques*, will guide you through making a self-portrait using paper, fabric, glue, embellishments & other media. See next page for a full description.

TOTALLY FOR TEENS

Do You Read With Your Eyes Shut?

Do you like to listen to books? You can download books to your computer from the regional system and listen to them on your own mp3 player (ipod or wma format)? If you would like to learn more about this technology, call or leave your name at the desk and we will contact you to show you how.

Celebrate "Teen Tech Week" with a YouTube Swap

Saturday, March 14 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.



Share your favorite YouTube online video with us and we will create a "Best of YouTube" show on the big screen. Submit your favorite YouTube via an entry form (available at the library) by March 12 for the show. YouTube videos you have created are welcome also. Maximum length of submitted video: 5 minutes. (Librarians reserve the right to refuse any inappropriate material).

High School and Middle School Pizza & Pages Book Discussion Groups

Come and enjoy some pizza & soda while discussing the latest book the group has read. Copies of the books and will be available at the library's main desk. New members are always welcome. Call the library for dates & details.



Summer Reading Preview
“Find out What’s Out There” at the library this summer. Stop by in June to sign up for the program!



We are also happily accepting prize donations from any galaxy for the teen Summer Reading program.

Teen Yoga
Tuesday, April 21 from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.



Learn some beginning yoga techniques to help you relax and stretch. Students in grades 6 - 12 are welcome. B.Y.O mat or towel and/or a pillow. Please call 508-835-3711 to register or for more information. Limited to 20 participants.

Multimedia Self Portraits with Cate Prato
Saturday, May 2 from 12– 1:30 p.m.



Making a mixed-media self-portrait is a creative way to make art and learn about yourself all at the same time. You don't even have to know how to draw! In this hands-on workshop, West Boylston resident Cate Coulacos Prato, author of *Mixed-Media Self-Portraits: Inspiration & Techniques*, will guide you through making a self-portrait using paper, fabric, glue, embellishments and other media. You'll be surprised at what you'll learn about yourself! Please bring: 3-5 photocopies of favorite childhood and current pictures of yourself.

CALLING ALL KIDS

ONGOING EVENTS

Mrs. Smith’s Super Saturdays
March 7 and April 11 at 11:00.
Please register. Seating is limited!

Guess How Many Items in the Jar! March 3 – March 31
Each time you visit us, try to guess how many items are in the jar. The person who comes closest wins the contents. (In case of a tie, one name will be chosen!)

Spring Arts & Crafts Exhibit for Children
May 12 – 22 during the library’s regular hours

We would like to invite all those young artists out there who would like to showcase their work for all to see! Limit of 3 entries per person. Registration starts April 14.

Start Thinking Summer
We’ll be accepting prizes again this year for the upcoming Summer Reading Program. Drop off your donations anytime or call Cecile or Denise at 508-835-2980 for any questions.



Free classes for baby and you! “Mother Goose on the Loose”

Join Librarian Susan Smith for ½ hour of music, rhymes, puppets, flannel board stories and activities all geared to babies, birth to 18 months. Enjoy open play after class is finished. Classes will be held for 6 consecutive Tuesday mornings at 9:15. **Registration began in February and is open until the class is full.** The dates are as follows: **March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7.**



“Books and Blankies” Lap Sit Program (For Pre-registered Children)
March 5, 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9



Join us Thursday mornings for a 6-week series for parents/caregivers and their children, 18 months to 3 years old. Interact with your child, guided by Librarians in music, finger play, parachute play, stories and other activities. **Signups began in February and seating is limited. Registration is open until classes are full.**

St. Patrick’s Day Craft
Thursday, March 5 at 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.



Register to join Debbie Fancy and Sarah Goodale for a fun-filled hour of crafting. Cost is \$5.00 **at sign up** to cover the cost of supplies. Limited space available for ages 5 & up.

Creature Teachers present “Animals Around the World”
Tuesday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m.



This program explores the diverse habitats of our planet and the animals that live within them. See why some animals are well-suited for certain areas and why some are not. Live animals showcased will be an alligator, chameleon, macaw, porcupine, python, fox and many others. **Signups begin March 24.**

Beaman Movie Theater Presents...
Thursday, April 23 at 2:00 p.m.



Join us for an afternoon movie showing. Call or drop by to sign up in the Children’s Room and to find out the title of the movie. **Registration starts March 24.**

Don’t forget to sign up for the wonderful programs planned for this season. The pencil symbol in the newsletter means that we recommend you sign up ahead of time for the program. For some programs, sign-up is mandatory.



Town residents are given priority for all program sign-ups. Non-residents will be wait-listed for all programs and admitted if space allows.

Beaman Memorial Public Library
8 Newton Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

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West Boylston, MA
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Books may be deposited anytime in the book return box on Newton Street. Please do not deposit audio or videotapes overnight, or CDs at anytime.
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Newsletter Staff: Director: Louise Howland; Co-Editors: Jackie Pruneau, Cecile Lindberg, and Denise Donoghue; Design: Sue Gomes.

Dear Friends – Happy Spring!

During times like these, it is easy to feel helpless at the hard decisions we see being made throughout our town, due to a lack of appropriate funds. I hear many people asking, “Is there anything I can do to help?” They want to know what they can do to protect our precious local resources, like the Beaman Memorial Public Library.

Here are some things you can do:

- **Communicate the Importance of the Library to You** – Call or send an email to your state senator or representative illustrating your support of the library waiver program.
- **Contact the Selectmen and attend Town Meetings – your support counts!**
- **Volunteer your time!** Even if it’s just a few hours a week, the library can always use an extra hand.
- **Join the Friends Board** – Our group meets only 4 times a year and assists the Director and the staff in paying for a variety of great programs. We do this through our fundraising efforts and are always looking for new members with fresh ideas! A few examples of these fundraisers are:
 - **The Annual Book Sale** – Between now and mid March, you can bring in your gently used books, DVDs, audio books, puzzles or games. Then refill your book shelves during the sale, **April 3, 4 and 5** for next to nothing!
 - **Custom-made, premium tea** – Warm up on these cold winter nights with our high quality, organic and fair trade-certified Earl Grey and Darjeeling tea. Each tin features a label with Mark Waitkus’ library watercolor on it, contains 35 bags of tea, and is priced at only \$10.
- **Join or continue to support the library through your Friends of the Library annual membership dues.**

See? You can help! To get more information or to learn about any of these opportunities, ask at the desk next time you’re in the library or call 508-835-3711. Hope to see you there soon!

Sally J. Phelps
President, Friends of the Beaman Memorial Public Library

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT: “This is an equal opportunity program. Federal law prohibits discrimination. Complaints of discrimination may be filed with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.”