Greetings from the President of the Friends – Ginna Shahid …. 

Winter greetings to all!

Believe it or not, there is actually a possibility that I am excited about the coming of winter! I love the electric energy of a brewing snowstorm, the crisp crunch of falling flakes, and the pristine beauty of a landscape covered in a thick blanket of pure white snow. So that is what I wish you all, a perfect snowstorm that passes without incident and melts back into winter warmth within a day or two.

Thank you to all who came and shopped at our Fall Book Sale. As always, it was a success thanks to you. Now that we offer credit cards as a payment option, it is easier than ever to browse and buy to your heart’s content.

Our 2nd annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, held in October this year, was quite the fancy affair thanks to the financial support of the Trustees and catering by Wegman’s. We spent a pleasant few hours nibbling on goodies and chatting with friends both old and new. I like to think it’s one more reason to volunteer in support of our well-loved library.

We are in the process of closing up this year’s budget full of spending on museum passes, youth and adult programing, and the sundry items on the library’s wish list, and preparing next year’s budget, to be presented and voted on by membership at our annual meeting. So save the date and time - Thursday, January 16th, at 6:30 PM. We will start with the annual meeting and then roll into one of our fun and informative Third Thursday Programs: Meet Lucy Stone (Massachusetts abolitionist and suffragist) presented by storyteller Judith Black. Lucy Stone is a national heroine with local roots. Born in Brookfield in 1818, she became convinced at an early age that America must live up to the values on which it was founded. She was the first woman in Massachusetts to graduate from college, and she embarked on a career in public speaking on behalf of women’s rights and the abolition of slavery at a time when women rarely raised their voices in the political sphere. As a professional storyteller, Judith’s presentation is sure to be inspiring, informative, and entertaining. Third Thursday Programs are made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Burlington Public Library. Come see your dollars at work and learn more about this fascinating Massachusetts native.

Until then, stay safe and stay warm!

Ginna

Virginia Churchill Shahid, President
Friends of the Burlington Public Library
From the Desk of Michael Wick - Library Director…

If you haven’t heard yet, I’m happy to tell you that the Burlington Public Library has gone fine free! This means that there will no longer be any overdue fines on most items checked out at the library like books, music, movies, audiobooks, magazines, games, and more. And don’t worry about old fines on your account—any overdue charges for Burlington Public Library items have already been cleared.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PATRONS?
If you need a few extra days to finish a book, or if you can't make it back by the due date to return it, don't worry—those daily fines have gone away. Do you have an item you've been hesitant to bring back because it's long overdue? Bring it in! All Burlington Public Library items returned in good condition will not have overdue fines, regardless of the due date. As always, we are happy to accept your donations to the Burlington Food Pantry if you're feeling guilty for returning an item late.

WHY GET RID OF FINES?
Fines keep people away from the library. When we started looking at reasons why people didn't use the library, owing money was consistently mentioned. By removing this barrier, we will help build a stronger community, improve literacy and educational attainment, and bring more people into the library. We want you to be able to enjoy events, access services, and expand your personal curiosity about people, places, and things.

WILL YOU NEVER BE CHARGED ANYTHING?
Lost, damaged, and never returned items are still subject to replacement fees. Certain items such as Museum Passes will continue to have fines associated with them. Items borrowed at other consortium libraries but returned here will still be fined according to the borrowing library's fine structure. Those with lost bills, damaged item fees, or fines from other libraries of more than $20 will be blocked from checking out more items until the items are returned, or the charges are paid.

WILL YOU STILL GET OVERDUE NOTICES FROM THE LIBRARY?
Yes, you will receive a courtesy notice 3 days before the item is due and a notice that it is overdue at 7 and 14 days past its due date. Items not returned within 49 days of the due date will be marked as lost, and you will receive a billing notice for the replacement fee.

If you have any questions, please talk with a librarian or call the Circulation desk at 781-270-1693 to learn more. I hope you’ll be as excited as we are to remove barriers and encourage greater access with our fine-free policy.
I’d be remiss if I signed off before reminding you of the importance of our wonderful Friends group. Through their many efforts, the Friends provide so many of the additional services that our community members can enjoy at the library—and one of the best ways to support that is through becoming a member. Your membership fee goes a long way to helping the library provide most of the programs you see in this newsletter, so please consider joining today!

**Burlington Public Library is loaning our Light Therapy Lamps!**

Even though the days are shorter now, there’s no need to be SAD. Burlington Public Library has the fix! We have three new Bright Light Therapy Lamps to borrow. Two can be checked out, and one is for in-library use only. Light Therapy Lamps can help with treating Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.) and its milder form – the winter blues. They also can be used to set circadian rhythms for shift workers and people with insomnia. Light therapy may be recommended for “sundowning” - a state of confusion occurring in the late afternoon and spanning into the night that sometimes affect people with dementia. To borrow a lamp, go to the Reference Desk on the second floor.

**VHS to Digital Convertor**

Preserve your videos! Digitize your old VHS tapes into an MP4 file for use on Mac, PC, or Mobile device. Save your videos to a USB flash drive or external hard drive and share copies with family and friends. Now you can properly burn your home videos to disc with our new DVD burning software! Questions can be directed to the Reference Desk - (781)-270-1691 or ref@burlingtonpl.org

**Book-a-Librarian**

Make an appointment with a librarian for a 45-minute, one-on-one session covering computer basics, instruction on downloading ebooks and/or audiobooks, or help using our databases or any of our library resources. We are not able to offer computer tech support or computer troubleshooting. An appointment is required. Call 781-270-1691, stop by the reference desk ahead of time, or send an email to ref@burlingtonpl.org (with an explanation of what you would like us to cover).

**One-Stop Career Resource Now Available**

Whether you are a career changer or just getting into the job market, the Career Transitions database, which is available to anyone who lives or works in MA, can help. This database, and much more, can be accessed with a free Boston Public Library ecard. You can sign up at https://www.bpl.org/ecard/. Then go to https://www.bpl.org/resources/business/, where you can log in to find jobs, internships, and apprenticeships; create resumes and cover letters; and explore careers and more.
Winter Storytime Sessions: January 13 - March 31

Raise your child to be a reader!

You are your child’s most important teacher. The Burlington Public Library offers weekly storytime sessions to help your child develop reading, language and listening skills needed to succeed in school. Together, parents and librarians help children get ready to read!

Please Note: Caregivers are expected to stay with children during all storytime sessions.
No registration is required for storytime – just drop by!

Baby Storytime (Birth-18 Months)
Mondays @ 10:30 am
Delight and stimulate your baby’s senses with books, songs, toys, and puppets!

Toddler Storytime (18 Months-36 Months)
Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 10:30 am
Interact with your toddler to nurture a love of books. Be active with music and movement!

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-6)
Wednesdays @ 11:00 am
Help your preschooler get ready to read. Enjoy stories together and build language skills!

Story & Craft
Fridays: January 17, February 21, & March 27
Join us for a story and craft based on the tale! No registration required.
Toddlers @ 10:30 am For caregivers with children ages 18-36 months.
Preschoolers @ 11:30 am For caregivers with children ages 3-6 years.

Dads & Donuts (Ages 2-8)
Saturdays: January 25 (Dragons & Donuts), February 22, & March 21 @ 11:00 am
Storytimes meant for dads, grandfathers, uncles, and other male caregivers to bring little ones to. We will have stories, fun, and donuts!

Saturday Stories (Ages 2-8)
Saturdays: January 11, February 8, & March 7 @ 11:00 am
Can’t make storytime during the week? Come enjoy stories, songs, and fun on the weekend!
Mother-Daughter Book Club (Ages 8-11)
Thursdays: January 9, February 13 & March 12 @ 6:00 pm
Book club for mothers and daughters (or their grown-ups). Themed activities at each meeting. Books will be available at Youth Desk.

Lego Club (Ages 5-11)
Saturday, January 18 @ 11 am
Monday, January 27 @ 4 pm
Monday, February 24 @ 4 pm
Saturday, February 15 @ 11 am
Saturday, March 14 @ 11 am
Monday, March 23 @ 4 pm
We provide the Legos – you provide the imagination!

Interactive Storytime (Ages 3-6)
Saturday, January 4 @ 11 am
Stories will leap off the page and into your hearts at this storytime. Props, sounds, and imagination will bring stories to life.

Preschool Games (Ages 3-6)
Monday, January 6 @ 1 pm
Stop by the library for fun games

Mother-Daughter Book Club (Ages 8-11)
Thursday, January 9 @ 6 pm
Book club for mothers and daughters (or their grown-ups). Themed activities at each meeting. Books will be available at Youth Desk.

PJ Storytime (Ages 3-6)
Tuesday, January 14 @ 6:30 pm
Come in your PJs and listen to stories and do some fun activities. Bring blankets and stuffed friends.

Lego Club (Ages 5-11)
Saturday, January 18 @ 11 am
Monday, January 27 @ 4 pm
We provide the Legos -- you provide the imagination!
Playing is Learning (Ages 2-6)
Thursdays: January 16 & 30 @ pm
Drop-in playgroup with stories, STEAM activities, and songs. Presented by Family ACCESS.

Chinese New Year Activities (Ages 5-11)
Wednesday, January 22 @ 4 pm
Celebrate Chinese New Year with some fun activities. This event is meant for students in grades K-6.

FEBRUARY

Groundhog Storytime (All Ages)
Saturday, February 1 @ 11 am
Stories and activities about our furry little groundhog friends!

Preschool Games (Ages 3-6)
Monday, February 3 @ 1 pm
Stop by the library for fun games!

Baby Sensory (4 Months-2 Years)
Friday, February 7 @ 10:30 am
Free play for babies and parents. Babies will learn to play in a group and will get some much-needed social time.

Valentine’s Day Cards (All Ages)
Tuesday, February 11 @ 6:30 pm
We provide all the materials -- just bring your imagination!

Playing is Learning (Ages 2-6)
Thursdays: February 13 & 27 @ 1 pm
Drop-in playgroup with stories, STEAM activities, and songs. Presented by Family ACCESS.
Mother-Daughter Book Club  
(Ages 8-11)  
Thursday, February 13 @ 6 pm  
Book club for mothers and daughters (or their grown-ups). Themed activities at each meeting. Books will be available at Youth Desk.

Lego Club  
(Ages 5-11)  
Monday, February 24 @ 4 pm  
Saturday, February 15 @ 11 am  
We provide the Legos -- you provide the imagination!

Valentine’s Tea Party  
Friday, February 14 @ 11 am (Ages 2-6)  
Wear your best outfit and enjoy tea, cookies, and stories.

Family Movie  
(All Ages)  
Tuesday, February 18 @ 11 am  
TBA Movie and popcorn.

Story Stones  
(All Ages)  
Wednesday, February 19 @ 11 am  
Make colorful stepping stones for your own storytelling journey. All supplies provided.

Bollywood Dancing  
(Ages 8-11)  
Thursday, February 20 @ 4 pm  
Join Bhumika Patel for some fun beginner Bollywood dancing to upbeat music!

Polar Bear Cupcakes  
(Ages 5-11)  
Thursday, February 27 @ 4 pm  
Miss Amanda will read some polar bear stories and teach students how to transform cupcakes into polar bears!

Preschool Science  
(Ages 3-6)  
Friday, February 28 @ 1 pm  
Fun and educational science experiments for preschoolers.

Mardi Gras Party  
(All Ages)  
Saturday, February 29 @ 11 am  
Games, crafts, and snacks will be Mardi Gras-themed.
MARCH

**Preschool Games (Ages 3-6)**
**Monday, March 2 @ 1 pm**
Stop by the library for fun games!

**Dr. Seuss Birthday Party (Ages 2-6)**
**Tuesday, March 3 @ 6:30 pm**
Dr. Seuss stories and activities.

**Baby Sensory (4 Months-2 Years)**
**Friday, March 6 @ 10:30 am**
Free play for babies and parents. Babies will learn to play in a group and will get some much-needed social time.

**Science Blast (Ages 5-11)**
**Thursday, March 5 @ 4 pm**
Let’s do some fun science experiments!

**PJ Storytime (Ages 3-6)**
**Tuesday, March 10 @ 6:30 pm**
Come in your PJs and listen to stories and do some fun activities. Bring blankets and stuffed friends.

**Lego Club (Ages 5-11)**
**Saturday, March 14 @ 11 am**
**Monday, March 23 @ 4 pm**
We provide the Legos -- you provide the imagination!

**Playing is Learning (Ages 2-6)**
**Thursdays: March 12 & 26 @ 1 pm**
Drop-in playgroup with stories, STEAM activities, and songs. Presented by Family ACCESS.

**Mother-Daughter Book Club (Ages 8-11)**
**Thursday, March 12 @ 6 pm**
Book club for mothers and daughters (or their grown-ups). Themed activities at each meeting. Books will be available at Youth Desk.

**Rainbow Snacks (Ages 5-11)**
**Thursday, March 19 @ 4 pm**
Learn to make colorful after school snacks.

**Preschool Science (Ages 3-6)**
**Friday, March 20 @ 1 pm**
Fun and educational science experiments for preschoolers.

**Mulan Party (All Ages)**
**Saturday, March 28 @ 11 am**
The live action movie comes out this weekend! Enjoy Mulan-themed activities and maybe a visit from this hero herself!
TEEN EVENTS
Grades 6-12

Teen Lounge: Some Fridays 2:30 – 4:40 PM
January 3, January 10, January 17, January 31, February 14, February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, & March 27
Join us after school for games, snacks, crafts, a Nintendo Switch, and more!

Tween Movie Showing
Saturday, January 4 at 2 PM
Join us for popcorn and a movie showing. Movie TBA.

Cookies and a Craft
Tuesday, January 21 at 7 PM | Monday, February 10 at 7 PM | Monday, March 9 at 7 PM
Join us once a month to munch on cookies and complete a craft.

Tween Anime & Candy Sushi
Monday, January 13 at 7 PM
Join us for an anime showing. Roll up and devour some candy sushi rolls. Grades 4+

LGBT+ Hang-out
Monday, January 27 at 7 PM | Monday, March 30 at 7 PM
LGBTQIA+ students and allies are invited to the library to hang out, craft, watch TV, and more in a safe place.

Teen Advisory Group
Mondays at 7 PM: January 6, February 3, & March 3
Join us once a month for fun while earning community service. Help plan teen events, help prepare and run children’s events, create displays, and decorate for holidays. New members always welcome!

High School After-Hours Lock-in
Friday, January 24 | 5:45 – 8 PM
Midterms week is over – come and unwind with us! Snacks, crafts, games, and more – just for high school students. (We still need a signed permission slip, though.)

Pokémon Party
Saturday, February 1 at 7 PM
Play games, complete crafts, eat snacks, and talk about all things Pokémon! Grades 3+
Movie Showing: P.S. I Still Love You  
**Wednesday, February 12 at 6:30 PM**  
The day is finally here – the sequel to *To All the Boys I Loved Before* is out, and we are showing it here. Join us for snacks and all the feels and squeals with Lara-Jean and Peter!

Bollywood Dance Class  
**Tuesday, February 18 at 7 PM**  
Join Bhumika Patel for some fun Bollywood dancing. Ages 12+

Videogame Tournament: Just Dance  
**Wednesday, February 19 at 7 PM**  
Join us for a videogame tournament on the Nintendo Switch! Grades 4+

Minecraft Party  
**Saturday, February 29 at 3 PM**  
Play games, complete crafts, eat snacks, and talk about all things Minecraft! Grades 3+

SAT Math Demystified: Presented by Shine In Math  
**Mondays at 6:30 PM: March 9, March 16, & March 23**  
An informational series by Shine In Math Academy. Learn about the content of Math from PreAlgebra through PreCalculus that you will see on the SAT test. Shine In Math has been recognized as Best Of Burlington for SAT Prep and Tutoring services for four consecutive years and has helped many students improve their SAT Math scores.  
*Pre-registration is required. Sign up on our online calendar.*

Videogame Tournament: Smash Brothers  
**Monday, March 16 at 7 PM**  
Go head to head in a Smash Brothers tournament.

Tween St. Patrick’s Day Party  
**Tuesday, March 17 at 7 PM**  
Games, crafts, snacks, and fun celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. Grades 4-8.

Book or Movie Trivia  
**Monday, March 23 at 7 PM**  
There have been a lot of great (*Love, Simon*) and bad (*The Giver*) movie and TV adaptations throughout the years. Come to a trivia game full of questions asking: Did this happen in the book or the movie? Even if you aren’t sure of the answer, you have a 50/50 shot!

Tween Movie Showing and Brunch  
**Saturday, March 28 at 12:30 PM**  
Join us for a movie showing and a breakfast buffet for students in grades 3+.

Teen Lock-in: Friday, March 22 | 6:00 – 9:00 pm  
Join us for a special after-hours event. We’ll have a craft, pizza, videogames, and more! Teens must stay the entire time and arrive 15 minutes prior to closing. A signed permission slip is required prior to attending.
**EVENING PROGRAMS**

*Meet Lucy Stone* with Judith Black  
**Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 pm**

The Friends of the Burlington Public Library will hold their annual meeting followed by *Meet Lucy Stone*.

150 years ago, married women had no legal right to the money they earned, the property they inherited, or the children they bore. They dared not speak in public, even to condemn the buying and trading of human beings. Lucy Stone, born in Brookfield, Massachusetts in 1818, decided it was time for this nation to demonstrate the democracy it preached, and she dedicated her life to public speaking in order to change this world. Lucy is often referred to as “the shining star” of the antislavery and woman’s rights movements. Judith Black is a professional storyteller, who has toured internationally.

*Just the Facts: Tips and Tricks of Gardening* with Peter Coppola  
**Wednesday, January 22 at 7 pm**

Master Gardener, Peter Coppola, will present tips, tricks, what to do, and when to do it.  
Make your garden look fabulous in 2020! This program is sponsored jointly by the Burlington Garden Club and the Burlington Public Library.

*An Evening with Andre Dubus III*  
**Thursday, February 6 at 7 pm**

Join us for an evening with award-winning and bestselling author, Andre Dubus III. As eloquent in person as in writing, Andre Dubus III speaks to audiences about the path that led him to become a writer—one that pulled him out of a life of violence and allowed him to find his voice through the arts.

**Feasting on Grain Bowls** with Liz Barbour  
**Thursday, February 20 at 7 pm**

Advanced registration is required! Register online or by calling 781-505-4985 by February 14.

Grain bowls are all the rage and for good reason! Fast, versatile, and packed with nutrients, these one-bowl meals combine fresh veggies, healthy grains, protein, and delicious sauces. Liz will demonstrate how to combine and prepare ingredients to create super healthy recipes. Enjoy a cooking demonstration of two delicious recipes with samples for everyone.

**Learn Ukulele** with Julie Stepanek  
**Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m.**

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join Julie Stepanek as she teaches the fundamentals of ukulele playing. You'll learn how to tune, strum and read chords. After a short lesson, you'll be able to play songs. No experience necessary. Open to ages 10 and up. Please sign up, via our website or by calling 781 270-1691, but only if you need to borrow one of Julie's ukuleles. There is no need to sign up if you bring your own instrument or just want to observe the fun.

**Innocent…Yet Imprisoned for 32 years** with Victor Rosario  
**Thursday, March 19 at 7 pm**

Victor Rosario will share his experience of wrongful conviction. Rosario spent 32 years behind bars after he was convicted of arson and murder in a Lowell fire that killed eight people in 1982. With the help of his attorneys, Andrea Petersen and Lisa Kavanaugh, and the New England Innocence Project, his case was reopened and overturned. Come hear a truly inspiring fight for justice.

**BPL CHESS CLUB**

Meets the Last Tuesday of Every Month  
Upcoming dates: Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 31  
6:30PM-8:30PM  
Free and open to all

Come test your skills with a friendly evening of chess on the last Tuesday of every month. No need to register, just drop in. A few boards will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Questions can be directed to the Reference Desk - 781-270-1691 or ref@burlingtonpl.org.
EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS

The Library is looking for anyone interested in displaying their artwork in our Art Gallery or for any non-profit who wants to display items of local interest in our Lobby Cases. Contact the Assistant Director to learn more at 781-505-4985.

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us, starting at 7 pm, for a discussion of the month’s book selected by the discussion leader. Books are available at the circulation desk at the beginning of each month. For more information, please contact the Assistant Director at 781-505-4985.

- **January 30** – *Townie* by Andre Dubus III. Discussion led by Marnie Smith.
- **February 27** – To Be Determined
- **March 26** – To Be Determined

DISCUSSION GROUPS

English at Large conduct weekly English Conversation Groups at the Library. These groups provide an opportunity for learners to improve their speaking confidence and meet other adults who are learning English. Conversation Groups run on a semester basis. New groups will be forming in January/February 2020.

English at Large Conversation Groups are open to all adults who want to practice their English-speaking skills. It is recommended that participants speak English at an intermediate level. Groups are free, but registration is required. To register, go online to [www.englishatlarge.org/conversation-groups](http://www.englishatlarge.org/conversation-groups), or call the English At Large office at 781-395-2374.
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Friends of the Burlington Public Library
22 Sears Street
Burlington MA 01803