Challenge yourself to read 16 books in 2016

The 2016 MHL Reading Challenge is on! It’s just like summer reading, but for the whole year, and there are more chances to win. A prize will be awarded on the 16th of each month, with the final grand prize drawing in December. You choose the books and formats (paper, electronic, or audio), and log your reading online. To register, visit www.mhl.org/16in16 or call 978-623-8401 x32. Stop at the Reference Desk each time you log a book and pick up a raffle ticket. Sponsored by the Friends of MHL.

Andover Seed Library opens Thursday, January 21

Pick up packets of vegetable, herb and flower seeds to plant in your garden. By providing free seeds, we hope to encourage gardeners to grow plants from seed, save the seeds of plants that don’t cross pollinate, and perhaps donate back to the Seed Library. To get you started, MHL is offering a series of free lectures and workshops on the beauty of seeds, growing plants from seed, the importance of native and heirloom varieties, herb gardens, organic vegetable gardening, and seed saving. All programs are sponsored by the Friends of MHL. Visit www.mhl.org/green-thumb/andover-seed-library.

Seeds: Up Close and Amazing
Thursday, January 21 at 7pm

Discover, explore and unearth the magic of seeds. Julie McIntosh Shapiro is a photographer and curatorial assistant at the Seed Herbarium Image Project at the Arnold Arboretum. She will share her extensive knowledge and groundbreaking work on the visual identification of seed through macrography, photography at extremely close range. Learn the diagnostic traits of seeds, and observe, study, and enjoy these sometimes overlooked, but ubiquitous, bundles of life. RSVP at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar. Sponsored by the Friends of MHL.

Heirloom and Native Plants~A Living History with John Forti
Thursday, February 11 at 7pm

John Forti, Director of Horticulture for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, returns to MHL to explore the significance of heirloom/open-pollinated plants and give voice to the history they keep alive. His talk will foster a better understanding of the most tried and true plants, and our role in preserving them. John is a nationally recognized and enthusiastic lecturer, garden historian, ethnobotanist and garden writer. RSVP at mhl.org/eventcalendar. Sponsored by Friends of MHL.
January & February Adult Programs

Downton Abbey Tea Party
Friday, January 8 at 10am
Celebrate the release of Downton Abbey’s final season with tea and treats in Memorial Hall. Wear your costumes and enjoy some trivia. Last season’s finale will be shown. Sponsored by the Friends of MHL.

Meditation with Amy
Thursday, January 7 at 7pm
Children’s Room staff member, Amy Martin, leads this class, which will include several types of meditation. Wear comfortable clothing and get ready to relax! RSVP at mhl.org/eventcalendar. Amy is a certified yoga teacher with several years of experience teaching all ages.

Decluttering for Good Health
Tuesday, January 12 at 7pm
In this one hour workshop, local resident, Nancy Patsios, will share tips on how to declutter your home or office to enhance good health. RSVP at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar. Nancy is the owner of everyday ORGANiZiNG. You can visit her website at www.everydayorganizing.net.

Death Cafe
Wednesday, February 17 at 7pm
Join other adults for an evening of open, lively, and insightful discussion about death. While not a support group nor a venue for bereavement, a Death Cafe seeks to provide an unscripted, non-judgmental platform for those wishing to explore the many facets of this often taboo subject. Come with an open mind, a healthy curiosity, and a willingness to share your thoughts, feelings, and questions with other like-minded individuals. Led by Andover resident, Richard Davis. RSVP at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Friends’ Concert Series
Howard Stith & Mike Rogers
Walk Through the Delta
Sunday, February 28 at 2:30pm
“Poor Howard” Stith and Mike “Bullfrog” Rogers bring alive the blues tradition that originated in the Mississippi delta region in the early 20th century. Howard, a scholar of early blues, has been performing for over forty years. Mike Rogers draws his harmonica style from Sonny Terry and captures perfectly the southern country blues of the Depression. RSVP at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar or 978-623-8401, x31. Walk-ins always welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of MHL.

Minimalist Fitness Basics
Healthy Recipe Tips & Tricks
Wednesday, February 10 at 7pm
Join MHL staff member and ACE certified personal trainer, Justin Termini, in an exploration of simple, effective exercises you can do almost anywhere. Using three movement patterns and improvised equipment made from basic household items, anyone can get on the path to better strength, movement, and mobility. Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared for some gentle movement. Open to all levels of fitness. Limit 30.

Lighten a Favorite Recipe
After Justin’s session, MHL staff member and certified chef, Vicki Murphy, will discuss how to lighten your favorite recipes to make them healthier. Bring in a favorite recipe and discover ways to preserve the taste and integrity by learning what ingredients you can substitute and what preparation methods you can alter. Register for their workshop at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar or 978-623-8401, x31.

Essential Oils with Dianne McCarthy
Thursday, 2/25 at 7pm in Friends Alcove 2
Learn about various oils and their uses, what to look for, and how to use them safely. Dianne has done extensive research and distributes an organic line of oils. RSVP at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Create @ MHL: Valentine Craft Workshop
Wednesday, 2/3 at 10am in Friends Alcove 2
Create a Valentine project with staff members, Vicki Murphy and Gerry Deyermond. Limit 10. RSVP at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

Programs Sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library
Fish On! Andover is a free month-long fishing series on Tuesday nights in February, sponsored by the Friends of MHL. Each session features fishing videos from 6-7pm, weekly door prizes, and a fishing seminar. A special exhibit of vintage fishing lures, curated by Randy Tustison, will be on display in Reference, including lures from the early days of fishing lure manufacturing in America, and lures from the five major lure manufacturers in Massachusetts, along with new lures designed by Mike Shah of Hoss Workhorse Lures.

**Plum Island Surf Fishing**
**February 2 at 7pm**
Ipswich native, Steve Gallant will discuss fishing the open sandy beaches of Plum Island and the surrounding North Shore, looking at tides, weather, and moon phases, and reading the beach. He'll cover live eel/plug fishing and techniques, equipment, wetsuits, and rod and reels. Steve owns Plum Island Surfcasting Guide Service and is a first mate for Obsessed Charters in Newburyport.

**Freshwater Bass Fishing Tactics & Strategies**
**February 16 at 7pm**
Ernest Weathersby will discuss effective techniques for every fishing season. He’s a 5-time runner-up in the New England District American Bass Anglers (MBAA) and has had 25 top-ten finishes in the Massachusetts Bass Federation tournaments, in addition to high rankings in many other competitions.

**Saltwater Plug Building**
**February 9 at 7pm**
Mike Shah, owner of Workhorse Lures, will cover the essential components of a well-built fishing lure, and how to alter and improve the action of your favorite lures. He'll share how to get the most out of each fishing session, including ways to improve fishing with artificial lures.

**Patagonia Monster Trout**
**February 23 at 7pm**
Skip Montello will share his experience fishing in Patagonia. Lacking predation, the amazing rainbow trout in Patagonia’s Jurassic Lake average in size from 8-12 pounds, with some monsters pushing past 20 pounds, and best of all, they're very eager to eat a well presented fly.

**Seed Starting Seminar on Saturday, February 13 at 10am in Friends Alcove 2**
Jennifer Valentine of Valentine & Sons Seed Co. LLC, will cover the basics of starting plants from seed, including the pure creativity, enjoyment and pride to be found in growing heirloom varieties. This is an informational workshop (no planting). Handouts will be provided. Space is limited. RSVP at mhl.org/eventcalendar.

**Authors Among Us: Patricia Bateson**
**Wednesday, January 20 at 7pm**
The Andover resident will discuss her new book, *Firewalk: Transcending the Fear, Awakening to Love*. She will inspire with her story of how she faced a health challenge and discovered ways to move through and heal on every level possible. Pat is a registered nurse with over thirty-five years of experience, in addition to being a certified hypnotherapist, Reiki Master, and Tong Ren practitioner. In Friends Alcove 2. RSVP at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar.

**Gardening is Murder: Author Neal Sanders**
**Thursday, February 18 at 7pm**
Gardening mystery author, Neal Sanders presents a ‘husband’s point of view’ of gardening, dispensing good horticultural advice, debunking the bad, all with great humor and insight. He just released his ninth book, *Murder in Negative Space*. Neal and his wife, Betty maintain a two-acre garden in Medfield. Neal's blog is *The Principal Undergardener*. Co-sponsored by the Friends of MHL and Village Garden Club.
Discover Your Past Genealogy Club
Novices to advanced researchers welcome. Register at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar or call 978-623-8401, x31.
- Thursdays, January 14 & February 11

MHL Monday Movies in Memorial Hall
- January 25 at 6:30pm - Love & Mercy
- February 29 at 7pm - Selma
Free monthly movies shown with captions. Enter to win the DVD after watching it. Sponsored by the Friends of MHL.

Creating a Community Garden in Andover
Tuesday, January 19 at 7pm
Learn about and become part of the team that launches our new community garden in Andover. The garden has been approved for Conservation Commission land opposite the leaf composting site on High Plain Road, and now it’s time to get organized. Come to this informational session to learn more. Contact annknowles@alum.mit.edu for more information.
A collaboration of MHL, LWV of A/NA, AHS ESIC interns, and Andover Conservation Commission.

Career Networking Group
Thursdays, 10-11:30am in Friends Alcove 1
- January 7 & 21
- February 4 & 18

Conversational English Group
Mondays, 10am-12 noon
- January 4, 11, & 25
- February 1, 8, 22, & 29
For non-native speakers of English who have studied formal English and would like to practice their skills. To register, contact Carolyn Fantini at 978-475-4602.

Sai Maa Meditation Group
Mondays, January 4 & February 22 at 7pm
New members welcome. Meets in Activity Room.

Creative Café: monthly craft night
- Monday, January 4, 7pm in Friends Alcove 2
- Monday, February 1, 7pm in Activity Room
Adult coloring welcome. Bring your supplies.