

Andover Libraries

By Janet Moore
Library Trustee

The Andover Library and the Bachelder Library continue to serve the public well. Despite the early snowfall and chilly December weather, access in a February that sounds like March—robins and blustery winds—has been easy. The East Andover Village Preschool still toddles its way to the Bachelder.

Want access to digital audio books? Simple: just walk into either library and sign up! Mary and Priscilla will steer you through the short set of directions and a test run so that you, too, can listen to your favorite books on an MP3 player. And don't forget to check your energy usage with an energy detector from NHSaves; two units are available for checkout at each library.

Notice that the Bachelder Library is the recipient of a newer computer. Notice that WiFi access is available in the Andover building. Remember to check

out reviews such as Amazon or the *New York Times Book Review* for new titles, and then head straight to the libraries to pick them up or order them through the State's Inter-Library Loan system.

At the Bachelder, new books include Kostova's *The Swan Thieves*, Crichton's *Pirate Latitudes*, and Mary Balogh's *A Matter of Class*. In Andover you can find *Still Alice*; *Committed*, the sequel to *Eat, Pray, Love*; and James Patterson's and Sandra Brown's latest. Chris Bohjalian's *Secrets of Eden* is available in both locations.

Best of all, come in, find a magazine or your favorite book, and curl up in the children's room. There's nothing like being surrounded by warm colors, picture books, and stuffed animals to make your reading experience comfortable and inspirational, and—let's admit it—in New Hampshire March, escapist!

For information about the Bachelder Library and the town budget, see page 8.

Your Hit Parade Is Coming To Town

By Diane Rice
Andover Library Trustees

Do you remember those Oldies and Goodies, tunes that we used to hum along with on *Your Hit Parade*, that great radio show that began in the '30s? Then come, sit back, and enjoy one of the New Hampshire Humanities Council's 2010 feature presentations, *Your Hit Parade*, based on the popular show and guaranteed to

delight one and all. It is brought to you thanks to the NHHC and with the sponsorship of the Andover Service Club and the Trustees of the Andover Libraries.

Please mark the date on your calendar: Wednesday, April 21, at 7 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School auditorium. There is no charge for admission, and refreshments will be served following the program.

What Andover's Reading Cutting For Stone

By Lee Carvalho
Proctor math teacher, retired

I have just finished reading *Cutting for Stone*, a capacious novel by Abraham Verghese. Capacious? Well, the story takes place in Ethiopia and New York City and tells of two Indian expatriate doctors who are foster parents raising twin boys born to an Indian nun and an American surgeon with the help of their Eritrean caretaker. See what I mean?

The twins, conjoined at their heads, are surgically separated immediately after their birth. Much of the novel involves the ways in which the boys remain connected even as they develop into very different individuals.

An early difference occurs in the classroom, where Shiva reveals genius combined with stubborn recalcitrance, unlike his more conventional brother. He does no homework and only speaks when the topic intrigues him, as in this excerpt:

"Sixty-six is my second-favorite number," Shiva said ... 'Because if you take the numbers you can divide (evenly) into sixty-six, including sixty-six, and add them up, what you have is a square.'"

For a person who loves numbers, this tidbit requires putting down the book to ponder. First of all, check his math. The numbers that divide evenly into 66 are 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 22, 33, and 66. Their sum is 144 and, sure enough, 144 is 12 squared; therefore, 144 is a square. OK, so Shiva is correct about 66.

Next, how common is that? Start looking, and right away you find that 3 works. One and 3 divide evenly into 3, and $1+3=4$, and 4 is a square ($2^2=4$).

Number Theory is a branch of mathematics that goes back to Greek times when Pythagoras and followers of his

school studied the properties of numbers with a mystical reverence. They believed not only that the whole number is the basis of the universe, but that numbers themselves have qualities or properties.

Shiva's observation about 66 reminded me of the Pythagorean notion of perfect numbers. According to the Pythagoreans, a number is perfect if it is the sum of its proper divisors. (Proper divisors do not include the number itself.) For example, 28 is a perfect number because its divisors are 1, 2, 4, 7, and 14 and $1+2+4+7+14=28$.

Early mathematicians wondered how many perfect numbers exist and devoted much effort to searching for them. As of 1952, there were only 12 numbers known to be perfect, and all of them are even numbers.

One wonders: Are all perfect numbers even? Is there a formula for generating them? Is there an infinite number of them? Computers have extended the list of known perfect numbers, and a quick Google search reveals that the current largest known perfect number is more than 1,819,050 digits long!

If sixty-six is Shiva's second favorite number, what is his favorite? When asked, he wrote it: 10,213,223.

"This number," Shiva said, tapping on the board with the chalk, getting as excited as Shiva allowed himself to get, 'is the only number that describes itself when you read it. One zero, two ones, three twos, and two threes.'"

Hmmm, is it really the only one? *Cutting For Stone* is a remarkable novel, full of memorable characters, fascinating facts about medicine and surgery, and a rich introduction to the politics of 20th-century Ethiopia—not to mention some interesting numbers.




Support Groups

Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice Support Groups are offered at no charge and are open to the community. We ask that you RSVP if you plan to attend a session. It is also recommended that you call ahead to confirm that a particular session has not been changed or canceled.

Parent Child Program
Every Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
September – May (runs on school year calendar)
St. Andrew's Church, 52 Gould Road, New London

Widow to Widow Support Group
1st Monday of the month • 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice, 107 Newport Road, New London

Caregiver Support Group
Call for dates and times.

Bereavement Support Groups
"Handing the Holidays After You've Had a Loss"
To be scheduled November/December 2010

"Growing Through Grief"
To be scheduled

Please contact Meg Ames at
603.526.4077 x233 for more information.



Lake Sunapee Region VNA & HOSPICE

Your Health, Your Home, Our Care



MacKENNA'S RESTAURANT

New London Shopping Center
526-9511

Monday - Tuesday: 7 AM to 2:30 PM
Wednesday - Saturday: 7 AM to 8 PM
Sunday: 8 AM to 2 PM

HELP US GROW!

Andover Elementary/Middle School will have a **garden** this year—right on school grounds!

Your donations of extra, second-hand or new garden tools, seeds, hoses, kid-sized gloves, bagged compost and potting soil, pots, twine, trellises, plant markers, wooden or bamboo stakes, or anything else garden-related will be greatly appreciated!

Drop items off at the entrance of the Andover School Gym on TOWN MEETING NIGHT, Tuesday March 9

Or contact Katherine Darling of Two Mountain Farm to arrange for a pick-up
724.4983 / 2mtfarm@gmail.com
For project description, more information, or to make a monetary contribution, please visit:
www.twomountainfarm.wordpress.com