

The Suburbanite

AN UPDATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

BY NANCY SHOHET WEST
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

ON MARTIANS AND IDENTITY Community Reads programs, such as those taking place next month in Arlington and Concord, have been rapidly growing in popularity over the past few years. Think of them as the new generation of book clubs — instead of an intimate group of friends or neighbors gathering to discuss a book, the entire town is invited to join in.

And it's not only about reading anymore. Identifying a text — usually through a community-wide democratic process — is only the beginning.

For example, Concord has chosen "The Martian" by Andy Weir as its community-wide reading selection in March. Events related to the Martian theme include a photo exhibit by Dan Barstow, director at Maynard's Virtual High School, who has worked on the development of software that helps astronauts on the International Space Station take photographs of Earth; a talk by Jim J. Zebrowski of the Aldrich Astronomical Society Inc. about the reality of getting to and surviving on Mars and our ever-increasing knowledge of it, thanks to satellites, probes, and unmanned rovers; an evening with space suit designer Nikolay Moiseev of Final Frontier Design, a design firm that crafts aerospace safety garments for the future of space travel; and several programs related to martians and space travel for children.

Meanwhile, townspeople in Arlington have chosen a literary theme far from the red sands of Mars. Their book for March is "Americanah" by the Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, an award-winning volume that explores race, identity, and immigration. Related programming in Arlington includes a viewing of the documentary "Good Hair," a musical

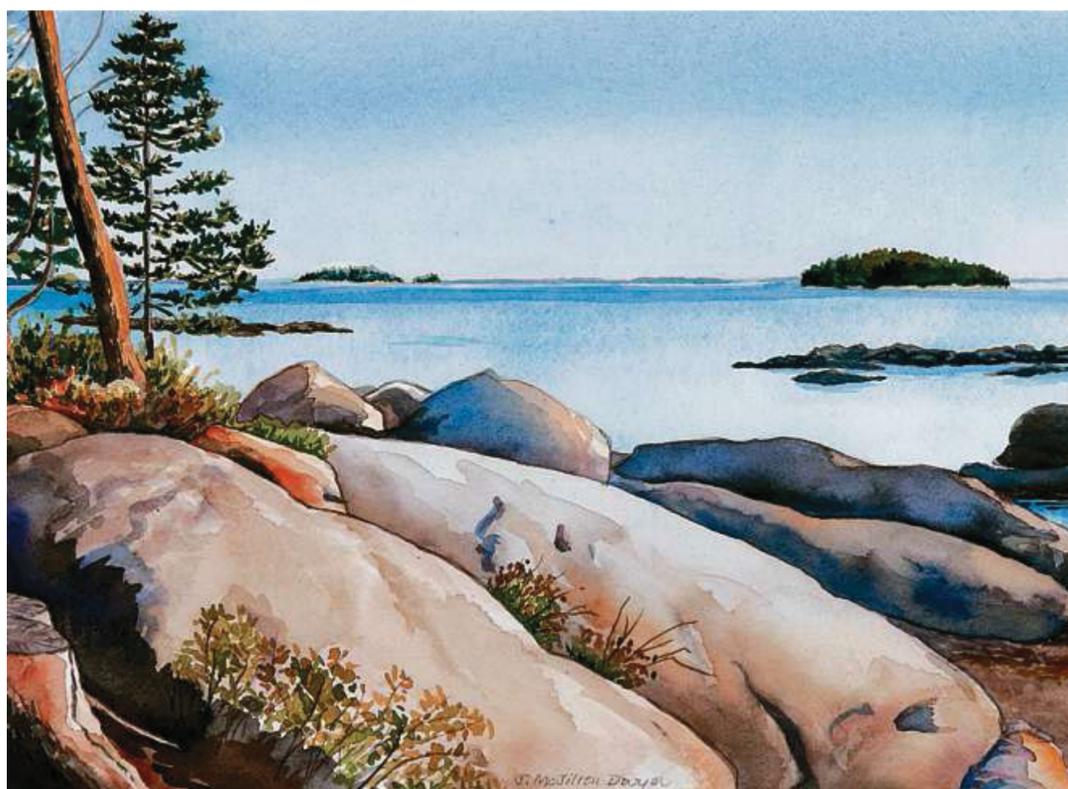
performance by Offiong Bassey, TED talks, and a panel discussion on identity.

For a complete schedule of Concord's community reading events related to "The Martian," go to www.concordlibrary.org. To find out more about the offerings in Arlington, go to robbinslibrary.wordpress.com/arlington-reads-together-2016.

COLOR OF WATER "By Land and by Sea," an exhibition of watercolors and drawings by Maynard artist Joyce McJilton Dwyer, is on display through March 26 at 6 Bridges Gallery, 77 Main St., Maynard, with an artist's reception on Saturday, March 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. Dwyer teaches watercolor painting for Acton-Boxborough Community Education, Acton Council on Aging and Carlisle Recreation Department. She also teaches private lessons in her studio at ArtSpace in Maynard. For hours or more information, call 978-897-3825 or go to www.6bridgesgallery.com.

STAY WELL, SINGERS! The Boston Saengerfest Men's Chorus hosts a presentation for vocalists on proper care and maintenance of their voices by Dr. Thomas Carroll, an otolaryngologist and the director of the Brigham and Women's Voice Program. Titled "Take Care of Your Voice!," the presentation takes place from 7 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 29, at First Parish Church, 349 Boston Post Road, Weston. Admission is free. For more information, go to www.saengerfest.org.

WOMEN'S QUEST Join local historian and University of New Hampshire history professor Ellen Fitzpatrick for a discussion about her timely new book, "The Highest Glass Ceiling: Women's Quest for the American Presidency,"



Watercolors by Joyce McJilton Dwyer are on display at 6 Bridges Gallery in Maynard through March 26.

on Thursday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Stellina Restaurant, 47 Main St., Waver town. "The Highest Glass Ceiling" tells the stories of three women who set their sights on the American presidency: Victoria Woodhull (1872), Margaret Chase Smith (1964), and Shirley Chisholm (1972), providing the far-reaching historical context for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. Admission is free; a full menu and bar will be available after the talk. Reservations are recommended.

LENTEN SONGS On Sunday, March 6, at 5 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, Concordia Consort presents music from its Lenten program, "Tears of a Sorrowful Soule," which pairs chorales and psalms with powerful instrumental pieces by Byrd, Bach, Hassler, Pedersen, Scarlatti, Buxtehude and Pachelbel. Following Concordia Consort's performance, Trinity's Parish Choir will sing Choral Evensong with "responses" by Wesley and Luther and the "Magnificat" & "Nunc

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

dimittis" canticles set by Thomas Weelkes. The choir will also sing William Mundy's anthem "O Lord, maker of all things." Admission is free. The church is at 81 Elm St., Concord. For more information, call 978-369-3715 or go to www.trinityconcord.org.

FLOWERING ARTISTS Needham's Art in Bloom, now in its eighth year, will be on display at the Needham Free Public Library on Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, March 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Roche Bros., the event is free to the public. Art in Bloom presents art by Needham High School sophomores through seniors,

Needham's Art in Bloom takes place March 5 and 6.

working in a variety of mediums, including oil paints, clay sculpture, graphic design and charcoal sketches, along with floral interpretations of each piece created by members of the Beth Shalom Garden Club. The library is at 1139 Highland Ave., Needham

Heights. For more information, go to www.NeedhamArtinBloom.com.

Send ideas to nancyswest@gmail.com.



AIDAN MONAGHAN/20TH CENTURY FOX

Concord's Community Reads selection of "The Martian" includes a talk on the reality of getting to and surviving on Mars.

BUSINESS PLAN

Autism Alliance of MetroWest

BY CINDY CANTRELL | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

As the number of children diagnosed on the spectrum has grown, so have resources for those affected by autism, such as sensory-friendly movies, plays, sports venues, and mall visits with Santa Claus. Last June, the Autism Alliance of MetroWest received a \$20,000 grant from the MetroWest Health Foundation of Framingham to support individuals with autism up to age 25 and their families in another area: medical visits. Allison Daigle, codirector of the Autism Alliance of MetroWest, has been with the organization since its inception as a program of Framingham-based Advocates in 2009. She had this to say:

Q. How did this project come about?

A. We know that families affected by autism spend a lot of time going to medical appointments, and that caregivers are often under a lot of stress to keep children calm. It's a loss for these families when they can't benefit from the same services as others in general, and it's even more crucial when you think that a diagnosis could be missed because of it.

Q. How is the grant being used?

A. We've created an Autism Wellness Packet in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, which comes with a lollipop, sticker, crayons, tools for children to communicate their symptoms and feelings, and a



Allison Daigle

story to help them anticipate step-by-step what's going to happen. We also gave the pediatrician offices a calming kit, with noise-canceling headphones, a weighted stuffed turtle to sit on a child's lap and help with relaxation, and a pager so families can step outside until the doctor is ready to see them. There's a lot more; these are just some examples.

Q. Where is the packet available?

A. So far, it's been overwhelmingly and graciously accepted by the two pediatrician offices we've presented it to: the Framingham site of the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center and Main Street Pediatrics in Hopkinton. We'll be working with one other office in March, the MetroWest Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics in Framingham. We've designed all the materials so they can be replicated for other pediatrician offices for a small fee.

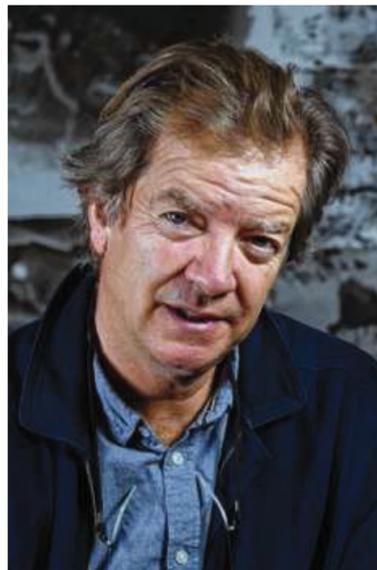
Q. Why are these materials important?

A. Making these accommodations available is just another way to say we care about you and your goals, and we're here for whatever you need to feel connected and supported. When we come together to build positive experiences and successes, we all win.

For information, call 508-652-9900 or autismalliance.org. Cindy Cantrell may be reached at cindycantrell20@gmail.com.

UP CLOSE

HISTORY INSPIRES SHOW



KEVIN SWEET

"The matter of 'us versus them' is a recipe for war for all states and nations."

RICHARD KEARNEY
Boston College professor and writer of "Twinsome Minds"

While growing up in his native Ireland, Richard Kearney recalls his grandparents describing numerous instances of loved ones, friends, and neighbors caught on opposing sides of Irish-British relations in 1916. In that year, an estimated 485 Irish died in the Easter Rising insurrection to end British rule, while 3,500 Irish soldiers in the British Army were killed at the Battle of the Somme in France during World War I.

Kearney, a resident of Newton and the Charles Seelig Professor in Philosophy at Boston College, believes that the centenary is a cause for commemoration but also reflection toward the future. Both aspects are expressed in the multimedia presentation, "Twinsome Minds: Recovering 1916 in Images and Stories."

Kearney wrote, co-directs, and performs in "Twinsome Minds," whose title comes from a phrase in James Joyce's novel "Finnegans Wake." The performance incorporates storytelling, animation, music, and poetry to interpret the events of 1916 for a new generation, with moving images by Jamaica Plain multimedia artist Sheila Gallagher who teaches fine arts at Boston College.

Their original work, which is part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, was commissioned and supported by Dublin's Abbey Theatre where the premiere on Jan. 23 was attended by Ireland President Michael D. Higgins. An international tour, funded by Culture Ireland, will include a stop at Boston's Tsai Performance Center on April 29.

Kearney said his own family history reflects the dual loyalties portrayed in "Twinsome Minds." His father, Dr. Kevin Kearney, was a nationalist who believed in Irish independence. Yet, he volunteered — alongside many of his fellow Irishmen — in the British Navy during World War II, enabling Richard Kearney's education to be paid by a British Navy pension.

Kearney, who returns to Cork, Ireland, for three months each year, said retelling these stories is an important acknowledgement of the struggles and sacrifices on both sides. It also reinforces the 1916 Proclamation of "cherishing all the children of the nation equally" and the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 accepting citizens as "Irish or British, or both."

"The matter of 'us versus them' is a recipe for war for all states and nations," Kearney said. "Moving beyond it, in a world context, is the only way forward."

For more information, visit twinsome-minds.com.

CINDY CANTRELL



PHOTOS BY LANE TURNER PHOTOS/GLOBE STAFF

Squeezable dolls help autistic children express emotions.