

Check It Out:

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An Unforgettable Evening

It was a cold and windy night but 248 people, including more than 40 teenagers, braved the weather to attend the Mark Skinner Library's First Wednesday program for January 2012. They were not disappointed.

Professor Paul Vincent, Chair of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Department at Keene State College, began his presentation by defining the word totalitarianism. He spent the next hour showing us how that word related to the rise of the Nazi party in Germany. His talk, "Life in Prewar Nazi Germany,"

detailed the ideology and the methods used to build the totalitarian regime; he helped us understand why the Nazi party was so successful.

During the question and answer period, one member of the audience asked, "Why do you study this subject?" Vincent's answer was heartfelt and moving. He began his career interested in the facts of the subject but 30 years later, it has become a mission for his soul. Dr. Vincent stressed that we can't focus too closely on the past or we will neglect the fact that genocides have happened since the Holo-

caust and are continuing to happen today. As Edmund Burke is purported to have said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

The First Wednesday program was prefaced by the opening of the internationally acclaimed exhibit of Holocaust education, "The Courage to Remember," a testament to the persecution and extermination of European Jews by Nazi Germany from 1933 – 1945. The exhibit, on loan from Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, will remain on display at Mark Skinner Library through January 24.



Take Me Out to the . . . Movies

Harvey Flaxman and movies make for a great combination, and fortunately for the Mark Skinner Library, that combination is often available to its patrons. The accomplished film director, screenwriter, and Academy Award nominated film producer regularly shares his expertise at MSL. As Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, Flaxman led his department into the digital age. In Manchester, he leads discussions on movies shown by the library.

Flaxman's interest in movies and the media began when he was a small boy. From age seven, Flaxman spent weekends haunting the many movie houses lining Brooklyn's avenues. After watching a film on the big screen, young Flaxman raced home to reproduce the experience for his family.

When asked if movies were a big influence on his life, Flaxman stated, "They were a *major* influence. Movies taught me about relationships,

about war and about heroism." He credits Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" with teaching him to laugh and recognize the subtleties of life.

Flaxman's career at Fairleigh Dickinson covered a period when there were many changes in movies and movie making. He developed the first program in the United States that combined digital graphics and the digital camera to create movies. That program continues to be visible and respected today.

Despite his tip of the hat to new film technologies, Flaxman feels that in general, quality has suffered in recent years. He stated that the majority of movies released in the past few years are almost all market-driven to teens and rely too heavily on special effects.

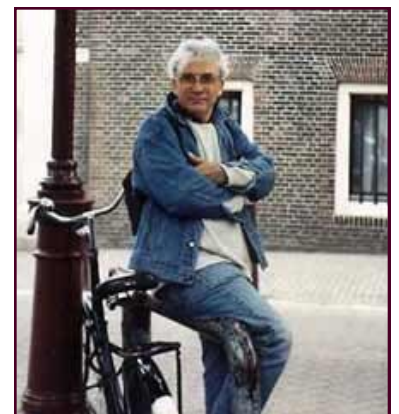
Talking about the art of viewing film, Flaxman was asked which movies could be watched without their soundtrack. His response was firm. "Films are a product of all the arts, including sound." Flaxman likes to

watch some movies alone, but feels comedies are best enjoyed in the company of others. Manchester is so fortunate to have someone willing to share his passion and expertise with us. Harvey Flaxman is another example of what the Mark Skinner Library offers to our community. We're not just books!

Harvey Flaxman's Top Movies List*

The Godfather I and II
The Conversation
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
Young Frankenstein
Au Revoir Les Enfants
Love Actually
My Favorite Year

*All are available on DVD @ your library.



Prof. Emeritus
Harvey Flaxman

*"Movies taught me about relationships, about war and about heroism."
 [Flaxman] credits Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" with teaching him to laugh and recognize the subtleties of life.*



Board Bytes

A short but productive board meeting was held on Tuesday, January 3rd at the Mark Skinner Library. The half-hour meeting included an extensive report from Interim Director, Betsy Bleakie.

Staff reports showed impressive attendance numbers at events for adults and for children. Betsy mentioned that the library is moving

into the design development stage with the architects for the new library building. It is then that details are added to the basic plans.

Betsy also told the attendees to watch for notices about a fundraiser for the library. An event for the whole family will be held at Friendly's restaurant in February. The theme of

the event is Love Your Library.

One exciting addition to the library's structure will be both teen and tween advisory groups; the groups will work directly with the director. The student members of the Board of Trustees announced that they are in the middle of surveying Manchester students to discover their interests,

needs and opinions about the library. The results of the survey will be shared with the director and the Board of Trustees.

The next meeting of the Mark Skinner Library Board of Trustees will be held on the first Tuesday in February at the library. Check the calendar for the exact time of the meeting.

Love Your Library, Love Yourself! Community Well-Being Day @ your library

February is Library Lover's Month. Love your library and love yourself! Attend the Community Well-Being Day @ MSL on Saturday, February 11 from 2:00 pm–5:00 pm and bring a sense of renewal and well-being to your life.

Join Pauline Gardner for a yoga demonstration class at 2:00 pm. Become familiar with postures, breath work and meditation. Regular practitioners enjoy greater flexibility, an enhanced sense of well-being, and heightened awareness of the body. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Gardner is employed at the Equinox Resort and Spa. She is a personal trainer and certified yoga, Pilates and Zumba instructor at Prana: Fitness for an Active Life.

At 3:00 pm, food coach

Yael Dolev will present "Enjoy Eating and Never Diet Again." Make a resolution to never make another after the holidays resolution! Dolev will share principles for establishing better eating habits, influenced by a Mediterranean diet. With a background in agronomy, botany, ecology, and coaching, Dolev helps people identify their personal obstacles in making nourishing food choices. "Coming from Israel, therefore following a wholesome Mediterranean cuisine, I create a natural connection of food from growth, to harvest, to the plate that I want to share with others," stated Dolev. Samples will be served.

Helena Wu will present "Herbal Medicine for Everyone" at 4:00 pm. This informative workshop will cover topics such as using herbs

safely, kitchen cupboard herbs for common ailments, and types of herbal preparations. Helena Wu is an herbalist and midwife dedicated to connecting people to nature and promoting health care independence. She grows and gathers plants, makes her own medicines, teaches workshops and offers health con-

sultations.

Come for all, some, or one presentation. Space is limited, so call the library at (802) 362-2607 to pre-register. This free program is geared towards adults, so leave the kids at home with a sitter and enjoy your afternoon!

Word Scramble

Welcome to *Check It Out's* newest feature! Test your skill at unscrambling and rearranging letters to form a word. Each month, the words will have a common theme. Hint: Let's commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

Answers are on page 4.

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The Mark Skinner Library: Manchester's Public Library is committed to serving the life-long journey of learning by providing information and opportunities for personal enrichment and enjoyment to people of all ages in our community.



www.markskinnerlibrary.org

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With Zumba Instructor
Lia Taylor

Saturday,
January 28 @ 1:00 pm

for kids!

Reserve Your Space Now! Space Is Limited!
Call (802) 362-2607.

Ages 5 & up. Must be accompanied by adult caregiver. Free event.



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Word Scramble Answers: segregation, boycott, Montgomery, nonviolent