



Off the Shelf

John Curtis Free
Library
Hanover, MA

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The Baker Chocolate Company: A Sweet History

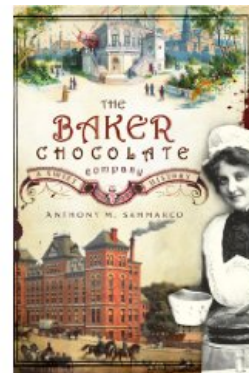
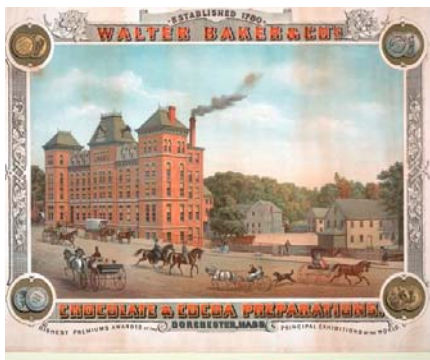
by author Anthony M. Sammarco

Join us on Tuesday March 16 th @ 7:00 pm for this “sweet” lecture on this famous Dorchester company: The Baker Chocolate Company. This delicious tale will explore the history of the Boston chocolate mill’s roots, which date back to 1765. Mr. Sammarco will discuss the creation of the company which was founded by Dr. James Baker of Dorchester and John Hannon. Hannon a penniless Irish immigrant possessed the rare skills required to create chocolate, a delicacy exclusive to Europe at the time. Together the pair created the famous company known as the oldest chocolate manufacturer in the United States. By World War II the company was the second largest employer in the South Shore.

Over the next two centuries, the company, which started out in a converted wooded mill on the banks of the Neponset River became one of the most famous leading chocolate and cocoa manufacturers in North America. In his illustrated lecture, Anthony Sammarco will discuss the delicious saga of Massachusetts's Baker Chocolate Company from Hannon’s mysterious disappearance to the story of cacao smuggling sparked by Revolutionary War blockades. The lecture will chronicle the evolution of chocolate from the ancient Aztec drink called “cacahuatl” to the sweet delicacy that we know today.

Mr. Sammarco is the author of more than fifty-five books on the history and development of neighborhoods around Boston. He also teaches history at the Urban College in Boston.

This event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Who knows what other sweet treats will be available?



From the Director...



There are a number of programs being sponsored by the library over the next two months. On Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00 PM, noted local historian Anthony Sammarco will give an illustrated lecture on the evolution of the Baker Chocolate Company. Founded along the Neponset River in 1765 by James Baker, the company became one of the leading manufacturers of chocolate and cocoa in North America. The following week on Saturday, March 27 at 11:00 AM, join author Judith Barban as she discusses her novel *Poplar River*. The novel focuses on a young married couple who spend time in the Canadian wilderness. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

This year National Library Week will be celebrated April 11 through April 18.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a nation-wide observance of our country's libraries. It is a time to celebrate libraries and their contributions to our society. As part of the week's activities author Kris Klein will present an illustrated lecture on his book *The Die-Hard Sports Fan's Guide to Boston*. This program is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM and is paid for by the Friends of the John Curtis Library. Books will be available for purchase and signing. On Saturday, April 14 at 3:00 PM classical pianist Inna Muravnik will play selections from Beethoven, courtesy of the Friends of the Library and by a grant from the Hanover Cultural Council. This is also the week that the library staff publicly thanks our hard-working volunteers and this year a breakfast will be held in their honor. The Library currently has ten volunteers who last year donated over 1,000 hours of their time to help the library operate as smoothly as it does. Thank you!

The month ends on a musical note when "Two Old Friends", affectionately known as Mac and Hutch, return to the library on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00 PM to perform some of their favorite songs from Ireland, the mountains, and the sea. The concert is sponsored by a grant from the Hanover Cultural Council and by the Friends of the John Curtis Library. There is no admission charge for any of the above events. See you there!

Lorraine Welsh - Library Director - lwelsh@ocln.org

Upcoming Events

Please join us on Saturday, March 27th in the large meeting room from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a book signing and discussion by author Judith Barban. She will be discussing her new book *Poplar River*. This romantic wilderness adventure is set in a remote fishing outpost in northern Manitoba, Canada, where Karen Kinsley and her husband spend a very unusual honeymoon. Returning year after year, Karen's love of the natural world around her develops into a mystical attachment to certain animals which is reciprocated. Judith Barban is retired and she is a native of Atlanta Georgia. Ms. Barban and her husband spend part of every summer fishing in the Canadian Wilderness.

Hooray for Volunteers!

The director and staff of the John Curtis Library would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who show up week after week to straighten our shelves and put our books back where they belong!

With our sincerest thanks in order of length of service:

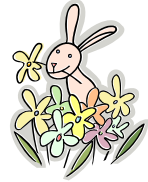
- Dick and Dot McNamara since 9/88
- Bob Keyes since 3/92
- Carla Hill since 5/97
- Marjorie Townsend since 2/02
- Jody Wood since 4/03
- Barbara Menkello since 7/07
- Emily Blampied since 3/08
- Carol Hamilton since 6/09
- Anne O'Connor since 7/09

Spring Hours



- Monday 10-8
- Tuesday 1-8
- Wednesday 10-8
- Thursday - Friday - Saturday 10-5
- Closed Sundays

A Word From the Friends by Tracy Marchetti



The Friends are looking forward to spring and to a new resource for the library: passes from the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston will be available shortly to patrons thanks to a grant from the Hanover Cultural Council.

Congratulations to Judy Higginbottom who is the winner of the Friends' Winter Raffle Basket! We hope that you enjoy all the fun winter activities and gift certificates that you've won. The Friends of the John Curtis Free Library extend our sincere thanks to all of the wonderful local businesses who have made donations: Boston Bowl Hanover, Crossroads Café & Deli, Gunther Tooties, Wildbirds Unlimited, Panera Bread, Sky Spa, Shaw's (Hanover), and the Lottery (who donated Patriots and Celtics hats and shirts). We urge patrons to repay their community goodwill by using their services if possible. Great thanks also go to all who purchased chances! Please know that you've helped raise significant funds for the library.

On Saturday, April 24, the Friends will again host a kite-making program in conjunction with the Hanover Cultural Council's Annual Kite Day 2010. Don McCasland, the Program Director of the Blue Hill Observatory and an avid kite-lover, will provide kite kits and show children how to construct their kites in the morning in two separate sessions (more details will follow). Dr. Wallace Kemp will also open his field at 688 Main Street to anyone interested in flying kites during the day (rain date is Sunday, April 25). Don McCasland will also be at the fields in the afternoon to provide great tips on kite-flying techniques. These events are free and open to the public, but you must register your child to make a kite at the children's circulation desk at the library. Sign-up sheets will be available at the end of March. Don't miss out on this great annual spring event!



We are also looking toward our Annual Bake and Book Sale to be held this year on Saturday, May 15, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will again host a Friends' Preview Sale on Friday, May 14 from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm – tickets are required for these contributing Friends and will be sent in early May. Please consider becoming a member of the Friends or renewing your membership at this time so that you will earn a special "Member Only" advance entrance. (Renewal letters will go out the first week of March, and membership forms are at all circulation desks)



Our Annual Book and Bake Sale is one of the biggest fundraisers for the Friends, and we rely on the town to donate any books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles in good condition for which you no longer have need. Please plan to do some spring cleaning for the library and provide for a host of events that we hope to sponsor this year and next. The library will accept your donations from Monday, April 26 until Saturday, May 14 (no magazines or textbooks please). **Please be advised that the public book sale room will be closed beginning April 26 so that we may organize for the sale on May 14 and 15.**

We wish you all a wonderful spring – and hope to see you at many of our upcoming events. Should you wish to make recommendations to the Friends, please contact Tracy Marchetti @ tjmarshetti@comcast.net. Thanks again for all your good support.



Children's Room...



by Lynne Campbell



Story Times

Winter story times end March 19. Registration for the spring session, which runs April 12 through June 11, begins March 22. Please check at the children's room desk for the schedule.

Spanish Story Hour

Registration also begins March 22 for the "Uno, Dos, Tres" Spanish story hour program. Instructor Maureen Holbrook will once again present her very popular eight-week program on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., April 15 through June 3. Children will learn basic Spanish vocabulary through books, music and movement, puppets and crafts. Space is limited, and parents are asked to register their children only if they can attend all eight classes.



Crafts

There will be craft making in the story time room on Saturday, March 6 and Saturday, April 10, both at 11:00 a.m. The March craft is a fluffy spring lamb, and in April we will build birds' nests. Please register your child a week in advance.

Read To A Dog

Madeline the therapy dog will be at the library on Saturday, March 20 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Children of all ages and reading abilities are invited to come and read her a story—or just visit with her!



"Life At Sea" Vacation Program



David Coffin, a musician, singer, storyteller, educator and specialist in maritime history, will present "Life At Sea: A Voyage In Song" on Tuesday, April 20 at 4:00 p.m. The program musically recreates a voyage on an old New England whaling ship. Coffin will lead the audience in singing sea shanties, "hoisting the sails", and acting out other shipboard activities. The performance is very interactive, full of humor, and informative as well as entertaining.

Mr. Coffin presented this program at the library last year, to very enthusiastic audience response. We hope that those who attended last time will recommend it to their friends! Please note that the program is for families with children in kindergarten and older. Free tickets will be available beginning March 22.