

Friends of the Brookline Public Library

Spring 2008 Newsletter

2007-2008 Board

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Dear Friends,

2007-8 has been a very full "year" for the Friends. We're excited to be sponsoring the Brookline Poetry Series now at the Main Library, our ESL conversation groups continue to have great success, we have funded some wonderful new staff grants this year, and we have a special Annual Meeting planned for you June 11, all of which you can read about below.

You, of course, have made all of this possible with your financial support, your attendance at our events, and your continuing donations to and use of our Book Sale. We thank you again for our ongoing support and commitment to the Friends and to the Library, and hope that we can count on your continued generosity.

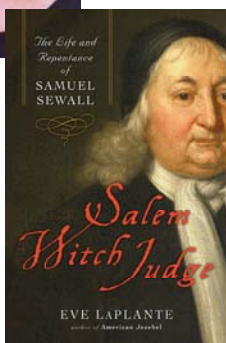
These thoughts lead us to another, important discussion related to us all. As we're all aware, Brookline is facing difficult financial times, and the Library is no exception. The outcome of the override vote that is on the May 6 ballot will have a very real impact on Brookline Library users. Over the last fifteen years Library usage has grown rapidly, while the number of full-time employees has declined. At the same time, the amount of state aid received by the Library has dwindled. Thus, any budgetary cushion that might have existed in years past will no longer exist as we enter the new fiscal year.

After much analysis, it has been determined that failure of the override would force a budget cut for the Library of \$80,000. In weighing how to implement such a cut, the Library Trustees voted unanimously on April 8 as follows: "In the event that the override does not pass, the Trustees will be forced to cut the budget, in some combination, from three areas; library materials, educational/cultural programs, and hours of service. Options under consideration include: at least a \$50,000 cut to library materials and the closure of both branch libraries one morning or evening each week."

Without question, it is the goal of the Trustees, Library Director and Staff to maintain the highest level of service possible, and do everything they can to minimize the negative impact the potential budget cut would have. But the choice does now face the residents of Brookline. As committed users and supporters of the Brookline Library, we urge you to give thoughtful consideration to the override vote on May 6.

Again, thank you for your attention and support.. We'll see you on June 11th.!

The Board of Directors, Friends of the Brookline Library



Friends Annual Meeting - June 11, 2008

As is our custom, we are very pleased to invite you to join us for a special program at this year's Friends' Annual Meeting. Following refreshments and a brief formal meeting to elect officers for next year at 6:30 pm, please join us to hear local author **Eve LaPlante** talk about her latest book **Salem Witch Judge: The Life and Repentance of Samuel Sewall**. Given the author's scholarly as well as actual relationship to her subject, we know there will be more than a touch of local interest!

Make a note – Hunneman Hall at the Main Library, June 11th, 6:30 for refreshments and elections, and 7 PM for the program.

Special Staff Grants 2008

Research has proven that vocabulary and motor skills encouraged and modeled during the earliest years can provide major advantages throughout childhood. In response to numerous requests for expanded programs for very young children, the Friends have happily funded Paula Sharaga, Coolidge Corner Children's Librarian, to develop "**Mother Goose on the Loose**". The primary goal of this project is to expand early literacy programming by: enhancing the existing program for one and two year olds using the proven "Mother Goose on the Loose" materials; adding a new story-music-movement program for infants through one year olds at the Coolidge branch; and creating a new program for one year olds at the Main library.

Patrons often ask for reading recommendations from library staff, but providing in-depth, personalized recommendations to our many interested patrons is generally not possible. To meet this demand, the Friends are pleased to announce the award of a grant to Liz Mellett, Reference Librarian, and Robin Brenner, Reference/Teen Librarian, to create an **Online Readers' Advisory Service**. Through an online form, each interested patron will be able to easily create an individualized reading profile and request books tailored to that profile; and the library staff person most knowledgeable about that patron's areas of interest will develop personalized recommendations for the patron. The service will be available to adults and teens. Given the most-frequently-asked query for a "good book", we believe this will be a most popular and valued new service.

Friends' Ongoing Book Sale

As you know, the Friends has a most varied and popular ongoing book sale at the Main Library in Brookline Village -- varied, theme-oriented, and always treasures to be found.

Melanie Quigley and Jonathan Allen, along with a small corps of volunteers, keep the shelves neat and filled, and develop seasonal themes for sale collections every couple of weeks, so the stock is always fresh. Come check out what's new in our handsome space (just off the lobby in the main branch).

Proceeds from sales go to support many of the programs in the library. Every year the February sales are given to the library in Brookline's Sister City in Quezalguaque, Nicaragua

Note: donations are always needed to keep our shelves full of good stuff (see page 4).

Still Looking for Board Members

Do you enjoy using Brookline's great Libraries? Have some ideas about what might add to the experience for yourself and others? The Friends are looking for new energetic board members. We meet monthly to plan projects and programs and would like to hear from you.



Please contact Nancy Nitikman (617-277-3135) for more details.

| Brookline Library Summer Hours June 16th until September 2nd | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Main | Closed | 10-9 | 10-9 | 10-9 | 10-9 | 10-5 | Closed |
| Coolidge Corner | Closed | 10-6 | 10-9 | 10-6 | 10-9 | 9:30-5 | 9:30-5 |
| Putterham | Closed | 1-9 | 10-6 | 1-9 | 10-6 | 10-5 | Closed |

ESL Conversation Groups a Success

Two years ago, as part of the Friends interest in expanding literacy programs in Brookline, Conversation Groups for our residents who are non-native speakers of English led by local volunteers began with a small pilot project. The response was even more positive and attendance was higher than expected. Now, four sessions are held each week. Tuesday Evenings, 7-8:30, at the Main Library; Thursday mornings, 10:30- 12 AM, at the Coolidge Corner Library and the Putterham Library; Monday mornings, 10:30-11:30, either at Coolidge Corner or at the Rose Garden, corner of St. Paul and Browne St.

Groups of people from many different countries meet to practice their ability to understand and speak English. Their leaders are wonderful, dedicated volunteers, indeed some have been with the program from its inception. Leaders prepare activities on a wide range of topics to spark extended, informal speaking and questioning as well as laughter and spontaneous comments. People are drawn to these events for improving English skills as well as meeting people and becoming more connected to the Brookline Community.

If you know anyone who could benefit from joining our groups, please encourage them to come to one of the sessions. New students do arrive each week and are most welcome.

There is a need for volunteers at this time, especially for the evening group. Training sessions are organized for new and continuing volunteers to build our expertise and increase our effectiveness based on our experiences and comments from the students. In general, people are scheduled for two sessions a month. Please contact Carol Caro at ccaro@verizon.net or Naomi Gordon ngordon725@aol.com if you are interested in joining this exciting volunteer effort.

<http://friendsofthebrooklinelibrary.org/>

BROOKLINE POETRY SERIES



We are delighted to tell you that we are now sponsoring the monthly readings of the Brookline Poetry Series at the Main Library, Hunneman Hall. Over the seven years of its existence, the group's mission has remained constant: to provide "a quality venue for local poets, both published and yet-to-be published; a place for a multiplicity of poetic voices; a series particularly dedicated to featuring the work of Brookline poets." The series has featured the best contemporary voices in American poetry, as well as many fine local poets, and a "best-in Boston" open mike.

The Series, formerly found at the Brookline Booksmith, will be holding its remaining Spring readings from 7-9 p.m. at the Main Library on May 2 and June 6. After a summer break, it will resume on Sunday afternoons, dates and times to be announced. For more info, go to

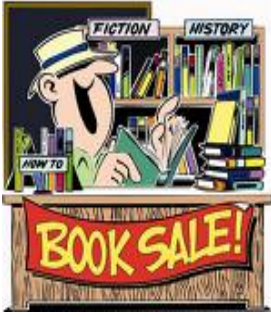
<http://www.brooklinepoetryseries.com/>

Membership Renewal Join-up Time

Please review the available levels of membership in the Friends on the enclosed materials, and act as generously as you can. Remember, our mission is to support programming for the three Brookline libraries, and we hope to have broad participation from the community to make sure that all audiences are being addressed – so, we would like to see your face at our functions as well as your check!

Note that your renewal or new membership today will cover your membership until June 30, 2009.

Donations Needed for Book Sale



We need your help to keep the ongoing Book Sale well-supplied and thriving!

We're looking for **books, music (CDs, LPs, cassettes), videos (DVD, VHS), even recent magazines** you could donate!

You can drop them off at the Main Library during business hours, or in back at the loading dock (press the bell to let someone know you have made a drop-off for the Friends). Receipts are available at the front desk.

We can also arrange to pick up donations at a mutually convenient time if you have too much to manage on your own. Send an email to bookpickup@aol.com or call at (617) 277-6608 to make arrangements.

We do our best to find your materials good homes: some will go onto the actual Library shelves, some will support the Friends in the Book Sale and any that remain are sent to one of several reputable non-profit groups.

All we ask is that all materials be in good, usable condition (all pages and covers intact, no mold or mildew). Except for magazines, there's no limit on age or publication date, language (we collect Spanish books for our Sister City in particular), or subject matter. Maybe you don't want that text on C++ programming any more, but somebody else will!

Check Out the *Friends* on the Web

Thanks to the talents of Jonathan Allen, the Friends now have a dedicated Web site, at <http://friendsofthebrooklinelibrary.org/>

where you can find out what is happening with us. You can go directly there or you can use the link from the Library site at

<http://www.town.brookline.ma.us/Library/>.

Thank You to Our Neighbors

The Friends would like to say Thank You to:

-- the **Brookline Booksmith** for selling our Brookline Historical Note Cards, and for supporting our programs with gift books;

-- **Chobee Hoy Associates** for purchasing our Note Cards to give to their clients, and for all the other support they provide to our community;

-- the **Stop & Shop Company** for providing an ongoing supply of new plastic bags for book sale and library patrons to carry their books home, when the weather is inclement.

Friends Supported Activities

in 2007-2008

Here are some of the programs the Friends supported this year, thanks to all of your generosity. The events took place at all three libraries as well as other Town locations:

Community Connections;

Coolidge Corner 50th Anniversary

Brookline Poetry Series

ESL Conversation Groups

Sister City Library

Brookline Reads

Volunteer Luncheon

Library Programs:

Children's Room Events

Teen Room Initiative

Piano Tuning

Staff Support:

Valentine's Day Lunch

Staff Rooms Equipment

Special Project Grants