

Friends of the Brookline Library

Newsletter



Friends of the Brookline Library

361 Washington Street

Brookline, Ma 02445

Programs & Activities Funded by the Friends

Summer Science Programs at
Coolidge

Volunteer Luncheon

Brookline Reads

Summer Children's Programs

Coolidge Piano Cover

ESL Conversation Groups

Printing of Art & Other
Brochures

Professional Development
Grants

Playaway Collection

Sister City Library

Spanish Language Materials

Mini-Golf Program

Staff Luncheon

Digital Pictures Frames

Refreshments for:
Coolidge Senior Films
"Lunchtime Tales"

From the President

Dear Friends,

We're delighted to report on a very special year just ending for the Friends of the Brookline Library. Thanks to your continuing support, we have been able to fund some one-of-a-kind projects this year, including a new collection of "playaways" and a seed collection of Spanish language materials. Further, our ever-popular Book Sale has successfully migrated to the lower level of the Main Library, where it continues to thrive. We were pleased to support this year's Brookline Reads programming, as well as the teens "Tee Off" mini-golf event in the Main Library - both immensely successful community-wide events. Read below about these and other special happenings this year. And please join us on Wednesday, June 8, to hear Peter Resnik tell us about his extraordinary experience in meeting, engaging with, and starting a first-of-its-kind book club with members of Boston's homeless community.

All of these activities are made possible only by your financial support, your attendance at our events, and your continuing donations to and patronage of the Book Sale. We thank you as always for your commitment to the Friends and to the Brookline Public Library, and we look forward to seeing you on June 8.

Nancy Nitikman



Annual Meeting

June 8, 2011 7 p.m.

"THE POWER OF THE WORD"

Presented by Peter Resnik

**Brookline Public Library - Hunneman Hall
361 Washington Street, Brookline**

For two lively hours each Tuesday, in a church meeting room with old oil portraits, a most unique group gathers to discuss their latest book selection. Founded by Boston attorney Peter Resnik, and Robert Day, homeless veteran of Boston's streets, this first-of-its-kind book club for the homeless has started a trend in cities around the country. It is with great pleasure we invite you to join us for this most unusual story of a passing hello that turned into a powerful collaboration and friendship.

There will be a short business meeting at 6:30 pm. Peter will speak at 7:00 pm.

New Location for Friends Booksale



Everyone agrees that the Library's new checkout and pickup systems are great, but it did mean that we had to move our on-going Booksale. Now, however, we have two locations at the Main Library, and everything found at the old location can now be found at one or the other. In the lobby of Main, across from the self-serve area (aka former Booksale), is the Booksale Boutique, featuring children's, teen's, magazines, large print, audio books and varying special offerings. Downstairs we have joined forces with our friends from KooKoo's Cafe to create a bookstore cafe atmosphere at KooKoo's Nest, where the book selection is brought in fresh nearly as often as the pastries. We have a hall full of books for \$1 (50 cents or pocket size paperbacks) and a regularly replenished selection of videos and music. (DVDs are becoming more common, but at \$3 each they sell out fast.) COME OFTEN AND BROWSE! Brisk sales cause most books to move quickly, and if they don't, our 4-week shelf-cleaning schedule ensures you see as much of our ever-changing selection as possible. Subjects come and go and old subjects take a new slant as fresh donations change the Booksale.

WHAT GOES AROUND

We don't just sell books. As supplies warrant we give books to area teachers and school librarians, recently from Winship and Washington Irving schools in Allston-Brighton. A few boxes went to the First Baptist Church in JP to help with their children's programs when they re-opened after the fire. Large print books have gone to the Brookline Senior Center. One volunteer has been selecting books for the patients at the VA hospital and another takes many bags of paperbacks weekly to distribute to several jails and prisons. Reading Trees came this summer to pick up a large accumulation of unsold books to see what they could use in their various programs. But our current favorite partner is More-Than-Words of Waltham. The disadvantaged youth in this program are selling books on-line and running two bookstores, learning computer and job skills while they earn a little money, some of which we have heard is being saved for community college! And if we are really lucky, maybe they will get a taste for books, too!

COMING UP

While for various reasons we chose to forego our annual book sale last year, we anticipate having a fine array of books for our almost-annual sale this October. Keep your eyes peeled for the announcement of dates.

At KooKoo's Nest we anticipate better lighting and some noise reduction. Our signs and labeling will be improving, too, now that things are more settled. And of course there are always new treasures to be found and shared. So do stop by, enjoy KooKoo's coffee, and pick up a book or three!

MADAME WHITE SNAKE COMPOSER WINS PULITZER!

Well, you can honestly say you heard it here first.... How exciting that the composer of Madame White Snake, Zhou Long, has just won this year's Pulitzer Prize for Music! You'll recall that Brookline's own Cerise Lim Jacobs conceived and wrote the libretto for this opera, and we were all privileged to enjoy two "sneak previews" in advance of the 2010 world premiere, including the first public airing of the opera's beautiful love arias. Many congratulations to Zhou, Cerise, and others associated with this marvelous achievement!

NEW INITIATIVES

The Friends are very pleased to announce four new and important initiatives launched this year.

Spanish Language Materials: We have funded the beginnings of a Spanish materials collection that should appear on the Library's shelves shortly. The initial purchases for this collection will be Spanish-language classics.

Playaways: You may already have noticed a brand new "Playaway" collection on the first floor of Main. These new items are a smash hit -- an entire audio book is contained on something like a small portable battery pack. You put in the battery (included), plug in your earbuds, and off you go for your walk around town with your "reading" for the day! (No earphones handy? Buy a set at the Main Library Reference Desk for \$1 and you're ready to go!) Keep your eye on this collection ... it will continue to grow!



Professional Development: Finally, this year we began a program to advance the professional development for our Library staff. Those staff members who are interested are invited to submit requests for funding to attend seminars and conferences for professional refreshment and enhancement. We have already supported several requests and look forward to continuing this annually as our finances allow.

Digital Frames: Have you seen our "cycling news service" in the digital frames? We've gotten many compliments on these. The frames are found in Main Library and our Coolidge Corner and Putterham branches. They are programmed at each location to highlight happenings at that location and other library events of interest. At Main they are at the Circulation Desk, the Information Desk, the Reference Desk, and in the Children's Room. If you haven't seen them yet, do stop by and enjoy a "news cycle". We expect you'll find something of interest!



Use the enclosed envelope to join and/or volunteer

for the Friends of the Brookline Library.

Your support makes our programs and activities possible.

Friends Library at Yawkey Family Inn

You may recall we reported last year on our collaboration with our neighbor, the Yawkey Family Inn. Opened in 2009 on Brookline's Kent Street, the Inn is the home-away-from-home for families with children in longer-term care and treatment at Boston's Children's Hospital. We can report that we helped the Inn establish a small permanent library for these families and that they have been enjoying that use during the year. We are gratified to be able to help in some small way these friends and neighbors.



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Free English Conversation Groups Continue

This summer marks the 5th anniversary of the English Conversation groups started by the Friends. It has been a wonderful experience for all involved. We have seen a growth in the number of students at Putterham this year and a continuing interests at the other locations.

Four sessions are held each week.

- Tuesday Evenings: 7-8:30, at the Main Library
- Thursday Mornings: 10:30- 12 Noon, at the Coolidge Corner Library and the Putterham Library
- Monday Mornings, 11-12 noon, either at Coolidge Corner (Nov 1 - Mar 31) or at the Minot Rose Garden (Apr 1 - Oct 31), corner of St. Paul and Browne St.



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.

Serving Our Youth

This has been an active year for our juniors. To highlight a few events supported by the Friends:

- Coolidge ran "Hands on Science" for the youngsters (6 sessions this past winter) and, bowing to popular demand, will be doing something similar this summer.
- Main showcased everything from origami instruction to children's singer/songwriter programs!
- The teens at Coolidge love their futuristic Teen Zone
- We were delighted to help fund one of the most popular events ever held at the Brookline Library: taking over the Main Library on April 1, nearly 140 teens participated in Library Mini-Golf, enjoying not only down-the-steps holes-in-one, but pizza, henna tattoos, and video games.
- Provided the funds for prizes (book bags, piggy banks, and bookmarks) that we were able to hand out to over 200 children (of the 420 that participated).



Visit us on the Web at: <http://friendsofthebrooklinelibrary.org/>