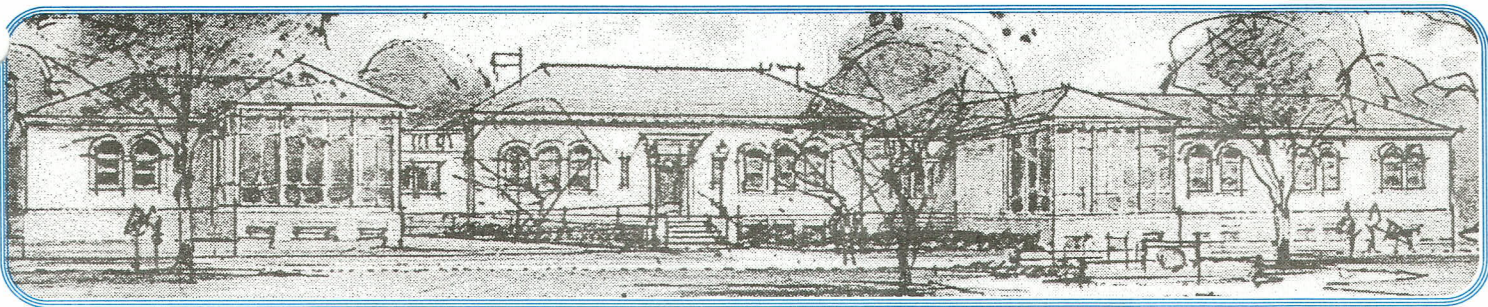


extra

# The Friends of the



## Falmouth Public Library NEWSLETTER

❄ Winter ❄ 2007 ❄ Edition ❄

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library  
cordially invite you to join them at their  
**Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**  
at the  
First Congregational Church  
68 Main Street, Falmouth  
Saturday, April 28th, 2007  
at 11:00 am

★ A Special Musical Presentation at 11:45 ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### "Books & Ballads from Broadway"



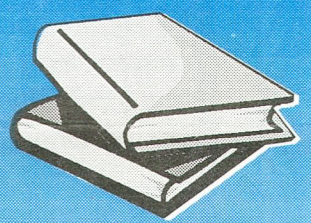
with Vocalist Stephanie Miele  
and Pianist Bob Schneider



★ ★ ★

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS)

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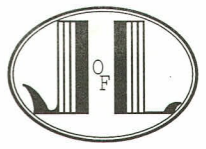
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President:  
Robert O'Toole  
Editor:  
Marilyn Sanborn



## Joy of Learning SCHEDULE

PLEASE SEE DETAILS INSIDE



**A FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY SPECIAL EVENT**

# BROADWAY COMES TO THE FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday ~ April 28th ~ 11:45 am**

## **"BOOKS & BALLADS from BROADWAY"**

**Starring Local Singing Favorite Stephanie Miele  
and accompanied by Pianist Bob Schneider**

### **Stephanie Miele**

*is a graduate of  
The High School of  
the Performing Arts in  
New York City and  
Boston University*

*She is active in  
community theater  
and has sung in  
several choral  
groups including  
the Handel and  
Hayden Society  
and the  
Wintersauce Chorale.*



### **Bob Schneider**

*is a graduate of  
Oberlin College  
where he studied  
science and music.*

*He has a Master's  
Degree from  
Wesleyan University  
and a Ph.d from  
Tufts University.*



*Stephanie and Bob have appeared locally at Borders Books and Music in Hyannis, the Cahoon Museum, the Peanut Butter Club, the Cataumet Arts Center, Arti-Gras in Mashpee and the Heritage Museum and Gardens.*

**THIS OUTSTANDING MUSICAL EVENT SHOULD NOT BE MISSED**

**2**

**A Buffet Lunch will be served after the Performance**





# Joy of Learning



## Schedule of Courses for Winter 2007

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will offer three new courses which will begin Tuesday March 6, 2007.

Classes will meet one hour per week for four weeks.

The classes are free and open to the public.

### THE COURSES ARE AS FOLLOWS

**Tuesdays ~ 10am - 11am ~ March 6, 13, 20, 27**

#### Movies! Movies! Movies!

Part film clips, part discussion about the elements that make a movie memorable. If you are a movie fan and missed this class before you won't want to miss Movies, Movies, Movies!

*Fred Gitlitz, B.A. Colgate, M.A. Columbia University*

**Wednesdays ~ 10:30am - 11:30am ~ March 7, 14, 21, 28**

#### An Examination of the Four Major Plays of Anton Chekhov; The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, The Three Sisters, The Cherry Orchard

Paperback editions of the plays will be available at The Inkwell Bookstore. We are fortunate to have Bob Szulkin back with us once again.

*Robert Szulkin- Professor Emeritus Brandeis University. Taught Russian Literature for 40 years. M.A. Harvard University, Phd. Harvard University*

**Wednesdays ~ Noon - 1:00pm ~ March 7, 14, 21, 28**

#### Scorecard on the American Presidency

All forty-three presidents; the good, the bad and the ugly; how do they rate? Ned Nolan will explain. Do you agree with the experts? Who do you think were the best and the worst U.S. presidents? Discussion will be invited.

*Ned Nolan, A.B. (History) Cornell, M.B.A. Columbia*

Classes will be held at Falmouth Community Television, 310 Dillingham Avenue.

CUT OUT HERE

**TO REGISTER:** Send your selections with your name, address and phone number to:  
Joy of Learning, Post Office Box 480, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541  
Please keep course descriptions as your record.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to enroll in the following course (or courses):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Movies! \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(2) Chekov: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Presidency: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also drop your registration form at the Friends Quarters at 359 Main Street.  
(Corner of Shore & Main Streets) Friends hours are Monday ~ Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

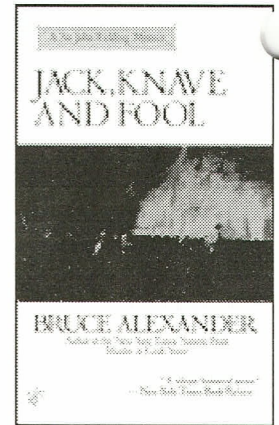


# BOOK REVIEWS

## *The Sir John Fielding Mysteries by Bruce Alexander*

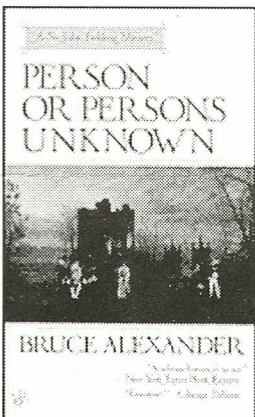
**First**, some biographical notes about Sir John Fielding, one of England's greatest policemen and the half-brother of author Henry Fielding. Born in 1721, John planned a career in the British Navy, but was injured in a naval battle and blinded at the age of 19. He studied and qualified for the law with his brother Henry.

**Henry Fielding**, in addition to writing, served as a magistrate in London. There were no organized police forces at this time, and 18th century London was a city of terrible slums and a huge crime rate. Henry Fielding turned his Bow Street home into a police station and hired a number of permanent constables who became known as the Bow Street Runners. They patrolled the city of London on a regular basis, for the first time successfully making the city a safer place.



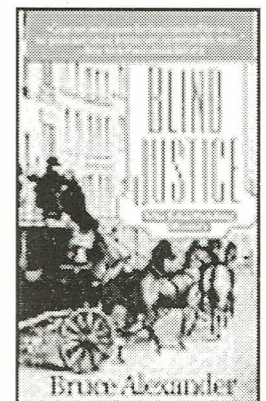
**A magistrate's duties** included investigating crimes, interrogating suspects, and deciding whether to release suspects or bind them over for trial. In 1754, John Fielding took over as Magistrate and served as such until 1780. He was called by Londoners the Blind Beak of Bow Street. Sir John was noted for his skill in interviewing witnesses, for his fairness, and his concern for the poor, especially young persons.

**This then** is the background for Bruce Alexander's mysteries featuring Sir John Fielding, Magistrate, as one of the two main characters. The other is young Jeremy Proctor, who comes before the court unjustly accused of a crime in the first novel, **Blind Justice**. Sir John determines his innocence and through a series of events, Jeremy becomes the eyes of Sir John (and eventually his ward) as they go about London to resolve the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Lord Goodhope. There are many entertaining characters in the books including the Bow Street Runners themselves. Occasionally, historical characters make an appearance. Samuel Johnson along with Oliver Goldsmith and David Garrick were in fact acquaintances of Sir John, and Benjamin Franklin is featured in **Experiment in Treason**.



**The adult Jeremy**, now himself a lawyer, is the narrator of the series as he recalls his years with Sir John. Jeremy is age 13 in the first of the eleven Sir John Fielding mysteries and is 21 years old in the last, **Rules of Engagement**. It is a pleasure to witness Jeremy's growing from adolescence to young adulthood. Each novel is a highly entertaining read. I read them first as they became available in paperback, and am rereading the series in order this winter.

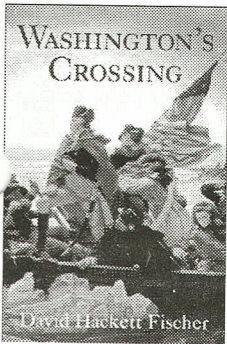
**Alexander** has been compared to Charles Dickens in his ability to evoke 18th century England, high praise for a 21st century American author. I regret there will be no further adventures of Jeremy Proctor and Sir John Fielding as the author died recently. Bruce Alexander was the pen name of Bruce Cook



**The eleven novels**, most of which are available in the CLAMS system, are - **Blind Justice** / **Murder In Grub Street** / **Watery Grave** / **Person or Persons Unknown** / **Jack Knave And Fool** / **Death of a Colonial** / **The Color of Death** / **Smugglers Moon** / **The Price of Murder** / **Experiment in Treason** and **Rules of Engagement**.

*I highly recommend these mystery novels.* Yang Conley





# BOOK REVIEWS

CONTINUED

## Washington's Crossing by David Fischer

**I was introduced** to this fascinating book when I told my friend that I was about to read David McCullough's **1776** and he said that **Washington's Crossing** was better. I will tell you when I review McCullough's book, but the Pulitzer committee agrees with my friend. Washington's Crossing got the Pulitzer!

**Fischer** is a history professor at Brandeis. His writing is compelling and his research singular. The result is a spellbinding narrative of the first (and very nearly the last) year of the Revolutionary War, 1776. He succeeds in making the distant conflict come alive and assume relevancy vis-a-vis "dusty irrelevancy". For the revolutionary cause it was indeed, as Thomas Paine would write, "the times that tried men's souls". The ragtime army of volunteers were in full retreat southwest through New Jersey after a disastrous rout and collapse in New York City. The inexperienced General Washington had escaped surrender on Long Island only by a miraculous turn of weather that permitted an escape across the East River. Enlistments were close to completion with little prospect of renewal. The Continental Congress was not giving supplies to the battered forces. General Howe and Cornwallis, with their Hessian allies, were in hot pursuit. The prospects of survival were bleak and unpromising.

**Then**, as masterfully portrayed by Fischer, General George Washington arose to the occasion with incredible success.

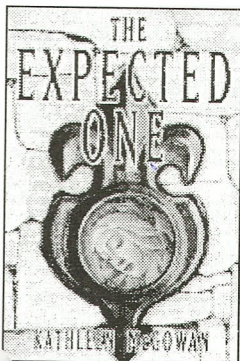
**A highlight** of the book was the description in depth of the various armies, English, Hessian and Continental. The English and Hessians were thoroughly professional, battle-tested in many conflicts with victories while the revolutionaries were Emerson's "embattled farmers" but with considerable proficiency and guile.

**Also**, Fischer provided new perspective on the brothers Howe (Army and Navy). They were cautious in their strategy, not, as I always thought, from laziness or a sense of superiority, but because they were still hoping for a rapid negotiation and end of the conflict!

**With** brilliance and good luck, Washington turned the tide, and kept the cause going through the surprise Christmas victory at Trenton, followed by the victory at Princeton which sent the European forces northward through New Jersey.

**Another** fact that I had never considered was the success Washington had in denying forage to the Howe ranks by occupying important parts of New Jersey. Lastly, there was the revelation that the English and Hessians treated Continental prisoners with disrespect and committed atrocities while the converse was not true. For shame!

*I highly recommend this book! ~ Ned Nolan Library Trustee*



## The Expected One by Kathleen McGowan

**One of the best books** I have read in a long time: **The Expected One** by Kathleen McGowan. It was so good I hated to see it end. Maureen is a Mary Magdalene historian, and she writes about Mary and Jesus. It is tremendously exciting, much history and accurate facts, but the book is fiction because the facts are just not provable. According to her version, Mary and Jesus were married. This does not surprise me because it was touched on in the DaVinci Code and Jewish men (as Jesus was) were required to be married, and Jesus followed the laws of Judaism. Anyway, this book was extremely interesting. Ms McGowan is going to be writing more on the subject of Mary Magdalene and Jesus, and I will be first in line to read her book.

## God in Concord by Jane Langton

**GOD IN CONCORD** has environmentalists and corporate interests at odds with each other. It is done in a funny and unusual way and, although, not the best book I've ever read, it was enjoyable on a cold winter evening.

(CONT. PAGE 7)



# Elizabeth I ~ 3 Interpretations

- ★ **Glenda Jackson** in a Masterpiece Theater presentation, a six part miniseries in 1971
- ★ **Helen Mirren** in a two part HBO Films miniseries in 2006 and
- ★ **Cate Blanchett** in a movie made in 1998.

**Not surprisingly**, most great actresses dream about roles they'd like to play. High on the list is the magnetic, accomplished woman who took the throne of England, a Roman Catholic country, declared the country Protestant, and ruled for 45 years from 1558 to 1603. Elizabeth's father was Henry VIII, and her mother was Anne Boleyn, Henry's second wife, whom Henry had had beheaded on trumped up charges of treason. His daughter Mary by his first wife, Catherine, was now queen and married to King Philip of Spain. A devout Catholic, she attempted to make all England Catholic, but an uprising by Protestant dissidents plus Mary's death from cancer, put her red haired, 25 year old half sister Elizabeth on the throne, and the course of history changed. The coronation scene in the Blanchett version is spectacular, not for its pomp, but for the simplicity of the young girl walking down the aisle of the church with her long red hair flowing out behind her to receive the gleaming crown of one of the soon to be most powerful countries in the world. Eat your heart out Hillary. It will never happen again.

**The Academy Award** winning Glenda Jackson version, because of its length, is able to give the most complete picture particularly good on historical good one to start with as it is romances of which there are intrigues of which there are versions tend to highlight particular episodes in Elizabeth's reign while attempting to include the history also. They are equally admirable but different in their emphasis. Mirren's version deals only with the latter part of Elizabeth's reign for obvious reasons.

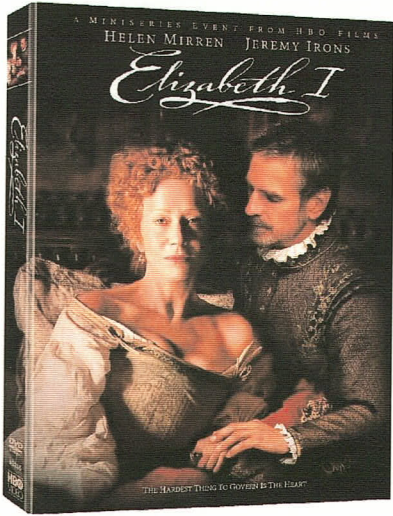
*most great actresses dream about roles they'd like to play*

**Elizabeth's** first great love, and according to scholars, her only one, is Robert (Robin), Earl of Leicester. In the Jackson version, he is foppish and rather effeminate, in Blanchett's he is played by Joseph Fiennes and is a bit too swarthy and swashbuckling for my taste, but in Mirren's version he occupies most of the first half of the film. Jeremy Irons plays Robert and it is a great piece of casting. In the Special Features that accompany many DVD's, Irons says he accepted the role because of his admiration for Helen Mirren. He is no longer young and looks a bit dissipated but the charm is still there as is that upper crust English voice. He looks great in all that brown velvet. Today you would have to have those clothes made in Dubai (one of the United Arab Emirates) where they still have seamstresses and tailors. Perhaps they did. Iron's Leicester seems to genuinely love the queen, is always at her side, and is the first one she calls when there is a crisis, but he is not a prince and Elizabeth hesitates to marry him. Although her constantly quarreling Council desperately wants her to marry to produce an heir, they don't want her to choose Leicester. He is not royalty.

**All three** actresses have big scenes when they behave like any woman would. With Jackson it is when she finds out that Leicester is married and has kept it from her. Elizabeth's screams are heard throughout the castle. One does not betray a queen if he wants to keep his head. Mirren's Elizabeth sobs a good deal about the men in her life and their behavior, even in the queen's council full of men who just sit and stare. Being men, they haven't a clue what to do. She could have had any of her lovers beheaded if she desired, but she did not. Leicester was forgiven and allowed to return to court minus sexual favors, and Essex had his income cut off. However, the person she does not spare is her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, who is plotting to kill Elizabeth. She visits her in Scotland to warn her, and when the warning is followed by more treachery, Elizabeth gives the go ahead for the beheading. When confronted with the done deed she blames everyone in sight except herself and there are more and more hysterics (Mirren had the last say on this production so we can assume she wanted a very passionate queen). Perhaps by now her advisors were used to it. Be forewarned. The beheading scene leaves nothing to the imagination.



**Again** the Mirren version is in two parts, one dealing with her love for Leicester and the other with her love for Essex, the Earl of Leicester's stepson. At first I rebelled against so much attention being given to her love life, but nonetheless, this version is very, very good. Helen Mirren is superb, and if her characterization of Elizabeth I is even half correct it is small wonder she ruled so long. I was not entirely happy with the young actor (Hugh Dancy) who plays the Earl of Essex, once played so successfully by our own Errol Flynn, but that may not have been the actor's fault. Elizabeth's love (?) for Essex comes off as more like the last gasp of a silly woman who ought to know better, something she herself recognized too late. The other versions give Essex fairly short shrift and perhaps for good reason. He was, as the critics say today, a toy boy.



**Helen Mirren & Jeremy Irons**

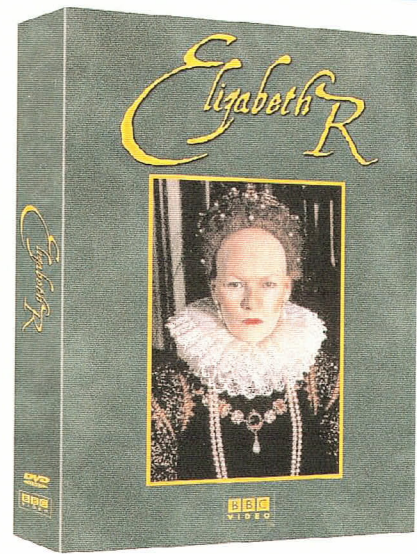
**The last part** of the Blanchett version

which the director, Shadhur Kapur, said was not a film about history but about personality, dramatically depicts Elizabeth when she has given up the tempestuous love affairs and now desires to be married to England.

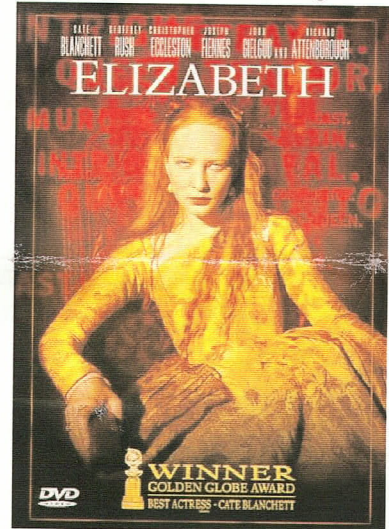
She has refused all attempts to marry her off. She directs her ladies-in-waiting to cut off her long hair and paint her face and hands with white paste. As she confronts her court the camera comes in for a close up and she says, "Now I am a virgin." I did not realize that that was something a

queen could undo, but then again Elizabeth was a powerful monarch. There has been countless conjecturing about whether or not Elizabeth was a virgin. One of the men involved in making the Blanchett version (or was it the Mirren?) said that he thought she was "technically" a virgin. Actually, nobody knows and isn't that the way it should be. Long live the queen.

**I have** not picked an overall favorite but I would choose Glenda Jackson for the history and staying closer to fact, Helen Mirren for a stunning portrayal of Elizabeth combined with love, lust, wit and even fun. The Blanchette version stands by itself. A great deal of imagination and skill went into this production and Cate Blanchett is both feisty and appealing. Her dancing scenes are fabulous.



**Glenda Jackson**



**Cate Blanchett**

**ALL THESE FILMS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN CLAMS.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

CONTINUED

### **Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier**

I read this many years ago and this time with a different viewpoint of life. Much of the tragedy in **Rebecca** could have been avoided by better communication.

*Editor's Note: Yes, you're right, but what would be left of the story?*

**Pack of Two: The Intricate Bond Between People and Dogs by Caroline Knapp**  
I have just started this book because a friend of mine gave it to me. I have a new puppy, and so far it is very true to life. This puppy of mine named Dancer is adorable, frisky, and driving me crazy. I love him. I enjoy reading. It makes the world a more tolerable place for me.

Anne Toran of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library



# WANTED

**Good Used Books  
Videos  
Cassette  
Prints  
CDs**

**Friends of the Falmouth  
Public Library**

## SUMMER BOOK SALE

Proceeds to benefit the library

Please NO textbooks magazines,  
or Reader's Digest condensed books

**Donations may be  
delivered to the FFPL at  
359 Main Street,  
Falmouth, MA  
Monday thru Friday  
10am to 4pm**

## Attention Booklovers

**The move is finally over** and the main library is ensconced at Carlson Lane. At least half of the patrons have found their way there and more come every day. The Friends are now located at their own rented place at 359 Main Steet across from Barbo's. It is a large comfortable room, and we have furnished it with the needed things. We also keep it open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 to 4 with the help of volunteers from the Friends. Call Avis Grosslein at 540-0882 if you are interested in volunteering. **This is the place where you may bring the books you wish to donate for the summer book-sale.** The old red cart from the main library lobby is there filled with books for sale, and you may also purchase any books on our shelves that have not yet been packed away. All categories are available. Monday and Tuesday would have the best selection as we sort and pack away on Wednesdays.

**At Carlson Lane** you will find some very nice book shelves just to the left of the inside entrance for which the Friends are most grateful to Tammy Ament and her efforts. These shelves are filled regularly by the Friends with donated books, **hard-cover, quality paperback and regular paperback.** The cash-box is there and the honor system is in force. You know the drill. On your next trip, stop and buy a book or two or even make a donation. The Friends count on these funds, the annual profit of which might surprise you. We are delighted with our generous patrons when we count our profit. **Come see us.**

## THANK YOU GREG SOUZA!

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library wish to extend their gratitude to Mr. Greg Souza, an employee of the Wood Lumber Company on Locust Street. Through Greg's ingenuity, a much-needed book drop was erected on the front porch of the temporary main library at 15 Carlson Lane. A further thank you is due Greg for constructing a money box for the on-going book sale in the foyer of the library. This is a major source of revenue for the Friends.

*Friends of the Falmouth Public Library*

BOX 480

Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541

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**BOOKSALE  
2007**



Friday ~ June 29<sup>TH</sup>  
through  
Thursday ~ July 6<sup>TH</sup>