

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library Newsletter

Spring 2008

President: Robert O'Toole • Editor: Marilyn Sanborn

Friends Contribute over \$103,000 to the Library from 1999 to 2002 and \$41,000 more during the past year totaling \$145,000. Counting the \$50,000 the Friends donated to the Renovation the final total is \$195,000

Annually, the Friends have contributed up to and more than \$15,000 to the library for equipment and programs during the past fifteen years.

New this past year was the Friends support of the laptop computer program which allows patrons to use laptops in the library. The number of computers available to the public has now increased as well as the wireless capabilities throughout the library.

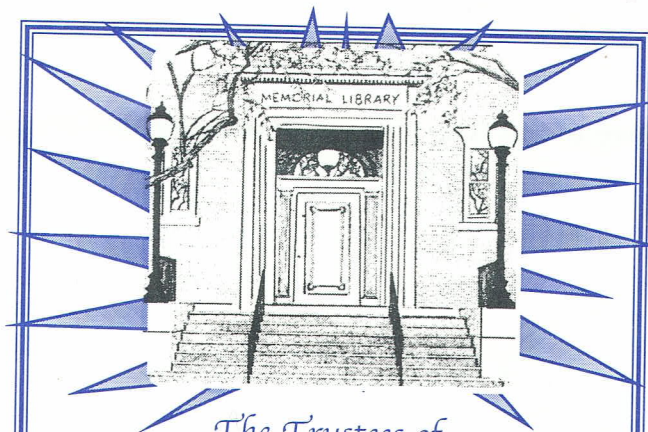
The Friends have helped to make the Falmouth Reads program a success by contributing to the cost of authors like James McBride and Tracy Kidder who have spoken at public meetings in Falmouth.

The Friends continue to support familiar programs such as the library's Museum Pass Program (now at 11), adding each year to the audiovisual collections including DVD's, audiocassettes and CD's, donating to the library's art and music collections, and supporting, with the Trustees, children's and adult programs such as story hours, stargazing, drama and writing workshops, music, gardening and babysitting.

The Friends two biggest events include the huge summer booksale on the library lawn at the end of June and their much admired Joy of Learning program which offers courses free to the public during both the fall and the spring.

The Friends look forward to moving back to the newly renovated library. We will have our own room on the ground floor where we hope that patrons will continue to donate their wonderful books.

To find us, enter by the Katharine Lee Bates entrance, go down the stairs, turn left and our room is on the right.



*The Trustees of
The Falmouth Public Library
invite you to join us in celebrating
The Grand Opening
of
The Falmouth Public Library
Sunday, March 16, 2008 at two o'clock.*

*Following the ceremony
you are invited to tour the library.*



Joy of Learning Spring Schedule 2008



Please See Details Inside

Falmouth Public Library Foundation

The Town of Falmouth, in April of 2006, voted to approve Article 21 and appropriate the sum of \$9,189,134 for the design, construction, renovation and addition to the Falmouth Public Library. Private funds were needed to supplement the amounts budgeted by the town, and it was for this purpose that the Falmouth Public Library Foundation, Inc. was established.

The Foundation is a non-profit corporation that has been granted 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service which makes it an excellent vehicle to raise funds for libraries. More and more libraries throughout the country have, or are in the process of establishing, foundations to help in their fund raising. Google will take you to several citations which single out individual libraries who now have working foundations if you are interested in reading further on the subject.

The Falmouth Public Library Foundation undertook a capital campaign to raise approximately \$1,500,000, \$1,000,000 for furnishings and equipment and \$500,000 for an endowment fund. It was announced at the February 7TH Board meeting that the campaign of the Falmouth Public Library has been successfully completed. Approximately 1,500 donors contributed pledges of just over \$1.8 million dollars. Very helpful in reaching the goal of the Foundation was a very successful grassroots campaign during mid- summer of 2007. Over 1,388 families and organizations purchased dedicated bricks, tiles and bookplates. Additional bricks and tiles may still be purchased but they will not be installed by the opening of the library.

Part of the funds raised are currently being spent to purchase furnishings and equipment, most of which should be in place on the 17th of March when the library opens to the public.

The Foundation has a Board of Directors which is meeting regularly to keep things running smoothly during this very exciting time. Presently they have seven members, and by-laws allow them to increase the number of directors if they should wish to do so. They currently have a paid executive director who will serve through March and April.

Two of the Directors on the Board of the Foundation are from the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library. Although their goals are somewhat different, the Friends engaged in shorter term projects and the Foundation with a longer view of what the library needs, the two organizations will be working closely together in the future to support and enhance the programs and services of the Falmouth Public library.

Below are the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Falmouth Public Library Foundation.

Foundation Board Meeting February 7

After receiving the exciting news that the "Opening the Door to the Future" capital campaign had exceeded its goal of \$1.5 million, the Foundation Board focused on uses of the funds raised and on the transition from the Campaign.

In fulfilling its major original mission, the Board has committed to the purchase of approximately \$600,000 in new furnishings and \$200,000 in new equipment. These purchases are underway and the Board has begun to pay funds to the town, which is managing the purchase and delivery process. The need for library directional signs, not covered by the original construction budget, is also being met by a commitment from the Foundation Board.

Library director Leslie Morrissey updated the Board about ordering the new security system to which they have committed approximately \$150,000. A special benefit of the new system is the labor-saving features for checking books and materials in and out and for completing inventory and shelving procedures. These are seen as especially critical with the very tight town budget and the freeze on hiring.

Discussion took place about a special meeting to be held in March to involve members of the Board of Trustees and the officers of the Friends to set the future directions for the Foundation in terms of its mission and fundraising. The Board is very concerned to find a course that is in harmony with the needs of the library, the policies of the Board of Trustees, and the strong work of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library.



Joy of Learning

Schedule of Courses for Spring 2008

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will offer four new courses which will begin Wednesday, April 2nd, 2008. Classes will meet one hour per week for four weeks. The classes are free and open to the public.

THE COURSES ARE AS FOLLOWS

Mondays ~ April 7, 14, 21, 28 ~ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

The Forty-Fathom Bank ~ A Novella by Len Galloway

The Exposure of Man: Len Galloway's Struggle Against the Sea

A man in dire circumstances, out of work with a family to support, at the start of WWII decides to take to shark fishing off the coast of California to make some quick, but dangerous money. A novice, he hires a veteran fisherman to help him. What ensues at sea between them and within them is one of the most powerful and poignant descriptions of what we perhaps are as men, but also of what the sea is and why we take to it.

William Hastings B.A. ~ St. Lawrence University

Tuesdays ~ April 8, 15, 22, 29 ~ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Movies! Movies! Movies!

For all those fans of Movies! Movies! Movies! 1 and 2 and for all those movie fans who missed 1 & 2 we are offering an all new Movies! Movies! Movies 3! What makes a movie a classic? What do you think?

Part film clips, part discussion about the elements that make a movie memorable.

Fred Gitlitz B.A. Colgate, M.A. Columbia University, Ph.D. Columbia University

Wednesdays ~ April 9, 16, 23, 30 ~ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

A 60 Year Inferno

Traces the history of this turbulent area (Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran) for the past 60 years. Class includes film and discussions. This is a repeat of A 60 Year Inferno which was offered in the fall. Many people who missed it in the fall have requested a repeat.

Fred Gitlitz B.A. Colgate, M.A. Columbia University, Ph.D. Columbia University

Wednesdays ~ April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & May 7 ~ Noon - 1:30 pm

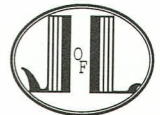
Two Russian Novels: A Hero of Our Time (1841) by Mikhail Lermontov and Fathers and Sons (1861) by Ivan Turgenev

This is a six week course. We are indeed fortunate to have Bob Szulkin back with us again. Books are generally available in paperback. Robert Szulkin Professor Emeritus Brandeis Univ. taught Russian Literature 40 years M.A Harvard Univ. Phd Harvard Univ.

All classes will be held in the newly renovated Main Library

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):

(1) 40 Fathoms: _____

Address: _____

(2) Movies!: _____

(3) Inferno: _____

Phone: _____

(4) Russian Novels: _____

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library



CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT THEIR

ANNUAL MEETING
and
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
at the
FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

April 26, 2008 at 1:00 pm

and

Featuring at 1:45 pm



John Yankee

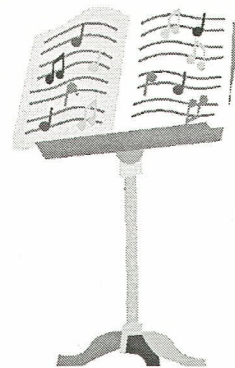


and the

Mostly Male Mens' Chorus



The program will span several centuries, from madrigals to folk songs, collegiate classics to good old barbershop, spirituals to shanteys, Irving Berlin to doo-wop, and possibly some classic patriotic pieces - a hallmark of the Greater Falmouth Mostly Male And Mens' Chorus.



Friends Receive Bequest from Longtime Local and State Activist

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library recently received \$10,000 from the estate of Hilde Rosenthal, a founding member of the Friends. Ms. Rosenthal, who died in June of 2007 at 96, came to Boston from Germany in 1933 where she had earned an MBA in Berlin. After a career which included several different jobs for the U. S. Navy, she purchased a summer home in Falmouth in 1978 and moved here from New York city in 1981.

In 1986, she was appointed by Congressman Gerry Studds to serve as the sole Upper Cape representative on the 10th Congressional District Senior Citizen's Task Force. In 1995, she traveled to Beijing, China as a Falmouth delegate to the United Nations World Conference on Women as well as to Russia with fellow members of the Falmouth League of Women Voters.

The Friends are honored to receive such a generous gift from a community minded person like Hilde Rosenthal. It will be spent wisely and well in support of the Falmouth Public Library.

WAIT UNTIL THE CHILDREN SEE THEIR NEW ROOM!

Things To Look Forward To In The New Children's Department

The "New and Improved" Children's Department is bigger and brighter, welcoming families back to the space. Exciting additions include a cyber center for kids, a children's program room, family friendly bathrooms, preschool play area and a study/lounge area for older kids. Phyllis' House, the centerpiece of the Children's Room, is undergoing its own renovations while the library is closed. Artist Alfred Glover is working to restore our well loved house with funding provided by the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library and the Falmouth Cultural Council.

★ **JEWELRY MAKING** ~ Friday, March 21
10:30 am-11:30 am • Inspiring kids to create with natural materials, (sea, shells, stones, etc.).
Boys and girls are invited to create bookmarks, keychains, necklaces, bracelets, etc.
All ages, Drop-In. Sponsored by the FFPL.

★ **RUMPELSTILTSKIN** ~ Saturday, March 22,
10:30 am -11:30 am
Presented by Dream Tale Puppets, featuring Norma Reif and Master Puppeteer Jacek Zuzanski
Once upon a time there was a miller who bragged that his daughter Kathleen could spin straw into gold. When the greedy King heard the brag he commanded Kathleen to spin for him and fill his empty treasury. Fortunately for Kathleen a funny little man jumps straight into the tale, but all his wheeling and dealing brings Kathleen even more problems.
Sponsored by the FFPL.
(Balloons for the kids provided by *Balloon Creations*)

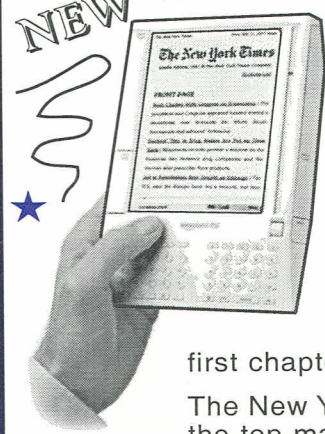
★ **SPRING STORYHOURS** begin on March 31st
Preschoolers Mondays & Thursdays at 10:00 am
Afterschool Storyhour (Age 4 and up) Tuesdays at 4:00 pm
Tots 'n Tales Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Books for Babies Fridays 10:15 am
(Please check the website or call to verify specific dates.)

★ **BOOK GROUP FOR KIDS** ~ Friday, March 21
10:30 am -11:30 am
Our theme will be What Falmouth Kids Are Reading: Their Own Words.
After reading the book The Three Questions by Jon Muth, participants will be invited to share a story or an essay that they have written. Light refreshments will be served. For ages 9 and up. Please register, a What's Falmouth Reading? event.

★ **"YOU ARE THE AUTHOR"** ~ Saturday, March 29,
10:30 am -12:00 pm • Based on the books IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT by Todd Parr & LIBRARY MOUSE by Daniel Kirk. Children can write their own stories & create their own books. Special visit from Todd Parr's pet dog Otto!
For PreK-Grade 2, a What's Falmouth Reading? event.
Co-sponsored by Young Children First!

For a complete list of events please visit
www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org
and click on library happenings or call the Children's Department at **508-457-2555**.

★ **KINDLE, KINDLE, WHO WANTS A KINDLE?**



We need to be elementary and define what a Kindle is before we discuss this wondrous little object. Many of you already know, but for those who don't, a Kindle is Amazon's new, wireless, portable, reading device with access to more than 100,000 books, blogs, newspapers and magazines.

It provides a sharp, high resolution screen that looks and reads like real paper. It is simple to use, requires no computer and no cables. Its wireless connectivity enables you to shop the Kindle Store directly from your Kindle whether you're in the back of a taxi, at the airport or in bed.

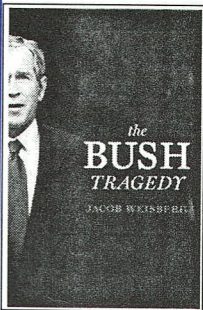
If you buy a Kindle it is automatically delivered wirelessly in less than one minute. More than 100,000 books are available including more than 90 of the current New York Times Bestsellers. You can get a free book sample, download it, and read the first chapters for free before you decide to buy.

The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post are on the Kindle as are the top magazines such as Time, Atlantic Monthly and Forbes, all delivered wirelessly.

The Kindle weighs only 10.3 ounces and has a long battery life, needing recharging every other day. There are no monthly bills and it has access to Wikipedia.org.

It sounds fantastic. Is there a catch? Well, it isn't free. Its current price is \$399.00 and when you click on the title you want and it comes up in seconds, something else happens. Your credit card is charged \$9.95. Fine you say, that's a lot better than even most discounted books would cost and you would be right. It definitely is an option, especially for traveling when you have no room for heavy books. Look at it carefully under Amazon.com and decide if it is for you. Those of you who want the book itself at all costs are not going to want the Kindle. Those who think they will continue to use the free public library will not be interested in a Kindle, but a great many have said yes because the Kindle is currently out of stock at Amazon. You can put in your order and you will get it as soon as it is available. There may be no backlog in orders by the time you read this.

Whatever you decide, look at the Kindle, not as a replacement for the book, but another convenient way of reading books if you should so choose.



BOOK REVIEW: **The Bush Tragedy** BY Jacob Weisberg

I heard the author, Jacob Weisberg, the editor of Slate; the online magazine, talking about his latest book, The Bush Tragedy, on more than one program recently, and I was intrigued to learn that Kenneth Branagh's Henry V is the Bush family's favorite film. Many observers have commented on the similarity between the n'er do well Prince Hal who becomes the warrior king Henry V and the eldest Bush son George W. Weisberg has picked up on this theme and has divided his story of President George Walker Bush, his family and his advisers, into seven chapters, each one introduced with a quotation from either Henry IV Part II or Henry V.

To give a few examples, Chapter III is called the Gospel of George and begins with the quote: "Promise not that I am the thing I was, For God doth know, so shall the world perceive, That I have turned away my former self". Chapter IV, The Shadow, is an in-depth study of Karl Rove, one of President Bush's closest advisers and architect of his campaigns. The quote is: "I am your shadow my lord and I will follow you." Chapter V, The Foremost Hand, gives a detailed picture of Vice President Cheney and his relationship to the president. The quote is: "You shall be as a father to my youth, My voice shall sound as you do prompt my ear".

It is a very clever structure and remarkably well written as well. Because the early part of the book is a generational saga of the Bush and Walker families, it is necessary to consult The Bush Family Tree at the front of the book often until you have them all identified.

When Prescott Sheldon Bush married Dorothy Wear Walker, the marriage united the allegedly grand, greedy Walkers and the frugal egalitarian Bushes. They had five children, one daughter and four sons, the second oldest being George Herbert Walker Bush known as "Poppie" when he was young. The latter married Barbara Pierce and they had six children, two daughters, one of whom died at the age of three, and four sons, the oldest being George Walker Bush whom we refer to as "W". Try to keep this much straight and you will manage fine.

Weisberg is very good at psychological analysis, and his narrative of the Bush family is riveting. He believes that it is George W's anger which is at the root of his failures, and it all dates back to his relationship with his father. Bush's ambivalence causes him to try to please his father while at the same time antagonizing him with his erratic behavior. Some readers will label the book "psychobabble" but he has a great deal of documentation to back up his analysis.

Where many of us will agree with the author is in his indictment of the president for his shocking lack of information about the Middle East when he collaborated with the invasion of Iraq. A positive note is the amount of American history he has apparently read since taking office, but unfortunately, Weisberg tells us, the reading of history has not helped Bush because he has done it narcissistically. Thus, he identifies with Winston Churchill because he "seems like a Texan". He actually came to see his own qualities reflected in the British statesman.

What was the one piece of information in this book that stood out for me? It concerns George W. Bush's approach to religion. His religion is highly personal, just himself, his prayers and his conversations with God. He cares nothing for all the rest evidently. He has no interest in proselytizing. He is definitely not evangelical. I guess I need not have worried.

This book is not a dry tome. It is popular history. I recommend it.

~ M. Sanborn

"The only true equalizers in the world are Books.
The only treasure house open to all comers is the library.
The only wealth which will not decay is knowledge."

Author unknown

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

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Joy of Learning
New Courses starting in April
SIGN UP TODAY