

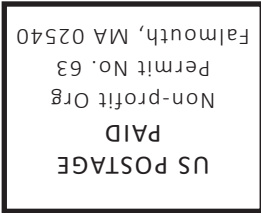


SUMMER BOOK SALE



Day 1	Thursday	July 4	10am - 4pm
Day 2	Friday	July 5	10am - 4pm
Day 3	Saturday	July 6	10am - 4pm
Day 4	Sunday	July 7	10am - 4pm
Day 5	Monday	July 8	10am - 12pm

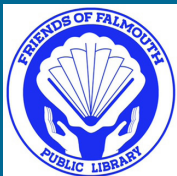
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Friends of the Falmouth Public Library
P.O. BOX 480
Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541

FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



Spring/Summer 2024

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Are you a member of the Friends?” When you donate books to the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library (FFPL), it may be one of the first questions you’re asked. It is not a requirement to be a Friends’ member to donate your books, but it is a gentle reminder that our volunteer group helps support the various activities and programs of the Falmouth Library.



Volunteers check all the donated books; clean the covers if needed, brush the paper edges, check the spine of the book, and review the pages for excessive notes or highlighting. Most paperbacks receive a \$1 sticker and are then packed away to await the Book Sale. Almost every other book goes through the same process of cleaning and checking, but is then scanned on “book selling sites” to determine if the value exceeds our normal \$2-\$6 price range. The “more valuable books” are sent to the Amazon or ABE book section of the Friends’ room to be sold online.

Membership in the Friends fluctuates between 375-400 people. Most members live in, or once called, Falmouth home. Some live outside of Falmouth and may come to visit, especially for the sale days. Our active volunteers also include people who have moved to Falmouth from around the United States and have a deep appreciation for our library. The number of donated books can vary with the seasons. Vacation times allow people the opportunity to go through bookshelves and basements. At the end of summer, families tend to donate books their children have outgrown in anticipation of the new favorites to come. At these times the active volunteers can feel overwhelmed with the literally hundreds of books in bags and boxes around the donation carts.

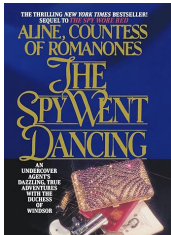
Most Book Room volunteers spend 2-4 hours a week helping to process the donations. Initially, new volunteers are paired with a veteran Book Room volunteer who can explain the Book Room layout and answer most questions. We all realize that this is a volunteer organization and that people have schedules, interests and obligations beyond the Friends and the FPL. Currently, three of our volunteers. Shelley Fenily, Gary Walker and Alice Jamal spend about 2 hours a week sorting through the donations, checking the online sales value and packing boxes of books. On Tuesday afternoons, a crew of five that includes D.J. Jost, Tom Skomro, and Bob Laquidara usually transport and stack the slew of packed boxes at a storage unit. During the Summer and Holiday Sales they move all the “sale stuff” – signs, bookends, sand containers, cash boxes, chairs, and smaller tents to the sale site and then back into storage. Whew!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT continued

Volunteers, through the Friends complete the cycle of book donations, book sales, and monetary support for the Falmouth Library. Having additional volunteers would help. So, if you have a couple of hours a week and enjoy handling books, consider spending time with us. This year our Summer Sale will begin on the 4th of July. The revenue from this sale allows us to help the Library fund the Museum pass program, provide funding for children’s programs, funds for ebooks, upgrade library technology and much more. We hope to see you in the Book Room or at the Summer Sale on July 4th.

-- Edwina Yee

BOOK REVIEW



The Spy Went Dancing by Aline, Countess of Romanones

This book is a sequel to *The Spy Wore Red*. The year is now 1966, and John Derby, code name Jupiter, is now a high official in the CIA.

The Count and Countess of Romanones are hosting a black-tie dinner for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Earlier in the day, the countess received a phone call that would change the next several months of her life. Jupiter was on the phone. The Countess Aline, code name Tiger, had spoken to her former boss only sporadically over the years.

Jupiter was calling with a new assignment. This one involved discovering the identity of a Soviet mole who held a sensitive position in NATO. Tiger realized she’d need help infiltrating European high society to accomplish her mission. Who better to ask than her good friend, the Duchess of Windsor. Both women had to work furtively to keep their activities from their husbands.

Countess Aline’s “further adventures as an undercover agent” are detailed with flashbacks, plot twists, humor, and grief. The book reads like a novel, yet every detail is true. The glimpses into high society as well as the dark corners of espionage and deceit are spell-binding and entertaining at the same time.

Mary Tamucci

FFPL Board

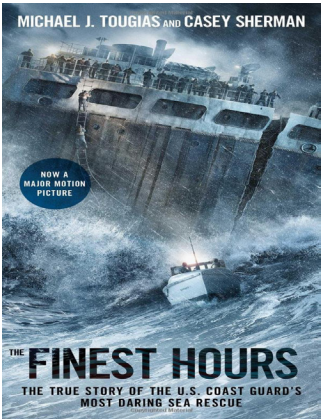
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Newsletter	Carolyn Brzezinski Mary Fran Buckley Jane Hewitt Tina Rood Mary Tamucci

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

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FALMOUTH READS TOGETHER



As Falmouth enters its 21st consecutive year of choosing a town-wide read, we join, by the count of the Library of Congress, more than 400 U.S. cities and towns that share a yearly community-wide read. Described as a “far-fetched, if not impossible, dream,” Nancy Pearl — an author, librarian, and former executive director of the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library — launched the program “If All of Seattle Read the Same Book” in 1998. The city of Chicago followed suit in 2001, choosing as their city-wide book Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. With the wide publicity for Chicago’s program, the programs collectively known as “One City, One Read” took hold.

Falmouth joined these numbers in 2003 with *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and the “Year of the Reader” was born. Joanne Brianna-Gartner wrote an excellent history of Falmouth’s program that was published in the Summer 2023 issue of *Spritsail*. She cites, from the webpage allcityreads.org , “Community reading is a way to connect people through the shared experience of reading the same book together.” The original leaders of the Falmouth town-wide read were teachers and librarians; their mission was “to promote reading across the community through a shared reading experience and to increase access to books for all members of the community, with special attention to children.” From the beginning, “the read was for both adults and youth,” Brianna-Gartner notes. Each year, the committee selects a companion book for younger readers.

The Falmouth Reads Together selection for 2024 is *The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Most Daring Sea Rescue*, by Michael Tougias and Casey Sherman. The companion book is the YA version of the same title. The launch for this year’s read was during the address, “To Save and Protect,” by U.S. Coast Guard Admiral John Mauger during the Falmouth Forum on March 8th. Other events this year include: March 25, The Finest Hours book discussion (4 p.m. Hermann Room, FPL); April 4, 11, 18, 25, Joy of Learning — Biological Variation in the Deep Blue Sea (11 a.m. Hermann Room, FPL); April 5, The Finest Hours book discussion (11 a.m. Hermann Room, FPL); April 13, Dick Ryder from Orleans Historical Society on CG36500 (1 p.m. Hermann Room, FPL); May 4, Nobska Lighthouse Open House (10 a.m.-12 p.m.); May 14, The Finest Hours with author Casey Sherman (6:30 p.m. Hermann Room, FPL); May 31, Friday Films — The Finest Hours (3 p.m. Hermann Room, FPL); June 1, Historic Storms of Cape Cod with Dan Wilding (3 p.m. Hermann Room, FPL).

Information is on the FPL website; events are listed in the monthly calendar.

--Mary Fran Buckley



2024 MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR THE
BOOK READING CHALLENGE

The second annual Massachusetts Center for the Book year-long reading challenge is underway. Each month participants are encouraged to visit their local library and find a book for that month’s reading challenge. After you have read the book you log on to their system to record the book you read, as well as leave comments for other readers. Each month the organization compiles the comments for public viewing.



Taking part in a reading challenge is a great way to find books that you may not usually pick up. Last year my favorite challenge was to read a book by a Massachusetts Book Awards honoree. I had never heard of these awards and was surprised to learn just how many amazing authors there are in Massachusetts! I chose to read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki, an author I had not known. This wonderful and imaginative book is a treasure. I now refer to the list when I am looking for my next great read. Some of the honorees include Geraldine Brooks and Celeste Ng - two of my favorites.

The 2024 Challenge started in January with “Read a book you read years ago, that you may feel differently about now.” I approached this challenge with the idea of reading something I loved as a child and wanted a chance to read again. *Charlotte’s Web* fit the bill and the visit to the farmyard did not disappoint. The biggest difference was realizing the wonderful words spun by Charlotte are matched by the amazing vocabulary used by EB White. I will forever be grateful that this book set me on the path to a life long love of reading.

I find that choosing what book I am going to read for the challenge is part of the fun. Each month I like to take a bit of time to research my options and check the Massachusetts Center for the Book recommendation list. Perusing the library you come across some books you may not have noticed before. With a little digging you are sure to find a gem.

In the coming months the challenges include a book whose protagonist has a different culture or lifestyle from you; a book about nature, the environment, or climate change; a graphic novel; and a book that inspired a film or television series. This challenge is a great way to explore the Falmouth Library and find your next fantastic read.

To take part in this challenge go to <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge>.

-- Tina Rood

What is coming up next in the Book Reading Challenge?

April

A book about nature, the environment, or climate change

May

A graphic novel

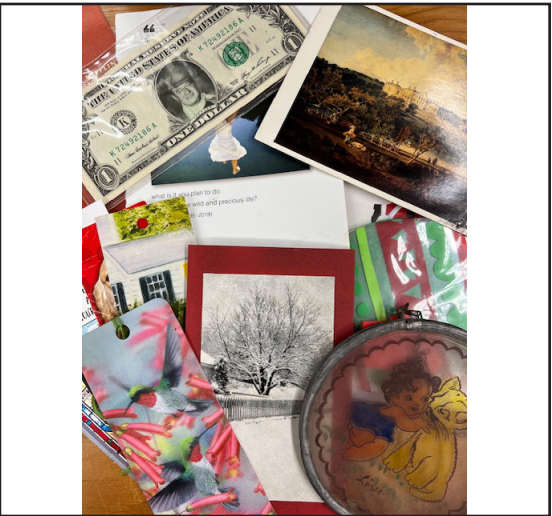
June

A book that inspired a film or television series

July

A book by an author born outside of the United States

WHAT WE FIND IN BOOKS



Just a few pages left to read ‘...slowly as the door creaks open, the growls grow louder and the footsteps closer.....’ “We’ll be landing in a few minutes. Please return your seats and tray tables to their upright positions.” Arrgh! That’s when you grab the nearest “bookmark” –boarding pass, plane, train, subway or bus ticket – something – anything to slide between the pages of your book.

For the last 6 months, we’ve collected an array of “bookmarks” from your donations. When volunteers unpack the box or bag of books we also uncover snippets of your life: ticket stubs to a Celtics game, passes to the MFA or a ticket to an archeological site in Athens. A hotel room card for the Taj Palace Hotel

in India or a postcard from the Schwarzwald restaurant in Munich, all remind us that many readers love to travel.

People, probably women, tend to make lists. On the back of an envelope was a very specific schedule of outfits to be worn each day (brown blouse, tweed skirt, orange shoes). Another notebook sheet itemized the necessities for a backpacking/camping trip with a special section for the dog (lots of wet and dry food, treats, and toys). A sadder list noted some missing gold jewelry and silver coins. Someone also jotted down a list of grievances about a coworker who was, in their opinion, “receiving special treatment”. More typical were very detailed driving directions and cancelled checks (\$500) or sometimes uncashed checks (\$0.36). We also amassed recipes for piecrusts, caramel cake and sauerkraut salad. Yum!

Of the many postcards collected this time, only about a dozen had writing on the back and were postmarked. The majority were pictures of sunny beaches, famous paintings, statues or even sailing ships to keep as reminders of a happy day. If you’re missing photos taken for a celebration, check in your books before they’re donated because we find lots of them. There are lei-bedecked guests, lots of smiling toothless babies, grinning toddlers and teenagers about to enter another life.

Volunteers in the Book Room are a sympathetic group. We’ll commiserate with you when we find a ticket from the New Jersey State Police, but smile and optimistically assume only the best when we discover a receipt for a wedding gown purchased in 1989.

Thank you for your donations that help the Friends support our special library.

-- Edwina Yee



MEMBERSHIP NOTES AND NEWS

FFPL's fiscal year begins on April 1. Our **Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9th, starting at 12:30.** This year, the Board decided to go back to the pre-COVID practice of serving a light lunch and inviting a guest speaker. This year's speaker will be our interim library director, Brian Stokes. He'll tell us about the new outreach program the library has developed with the Country Sheriff to bring books and programs to the Barnstable County jail. We ask that you let us know if you plan to attend the meeting so we can make adequate arrangements. Our email address is friends@falmouthpubliclibrary.org and our phone number is 508-457-2555 extension 2918. Or, you can call or text me directly at 774-353-6627.

It's that time of year again. Annual Membership renewal letters will be mailed before the end of March. The dates for the summer book sale on the library lawn have been set for July 4-8. Set-up day is Wednesday July 3 starting at 9:30am. Emails will be going out to everyone on our volunteer list. If you haven't been called in past years, but want to volunteer, call either of the numbers above, or send us an email. It takes a village, so to speak, to make this event a success.

Several of you have checked the little box on membership forms offering to volunteer in the book room. There are four immediate opportunities. 1) People are needed to sort, price and pack books for the sale. We have sorting and pricing guidelines and training will be provided. 2) The online sales team (Amazon and ABE books) needs help. This entails consulting several web sites to determine pricing, posting the book on-line, and packaging sold books for mailing. Again, we have clear guidelines and training for these tasks. 3) We are looking for someone with Adobe Indesign, or similar experience to pull together the Newsletter twice a year. Content is provided, you will be responsible for the format and layout. 4) Last, but by no means least, we're looking for a team member to help with membership development and communications. Responsibilities include working with the newsletter team, organizing membership renewals, and sending holiday sale postcards and periodic emails. If you have a few hours a week to volunteer and are interested in any of the above opportunities, please email friends@falmouthpubliclibrary.org.

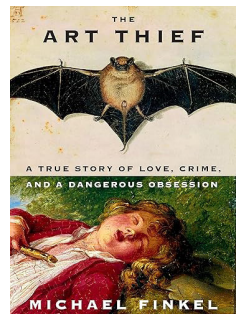
-- Mary Tamucci



BOOK REVIEWS continued

***The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession* by Michael Finkel**

Stephane Breitwieser was one of the most successful art thieves in recent history. Over the course of 10 years, beginning in 1997, he successfully "liberated" (his term) from museums, churches, and castles in Europe, more than 300 pieces of artwork worth about \$2 billion. He never made a dime from any of these heists; rather, he displayed the art in two rooms on the second floor of his mother's house, where he could view and enjoy these works at his leisure.



His girlfriend at the time served as his lookout; the heists were carried out in the daytime when the museums were open to the public, with security guards patrolling. Breitwieser, however, was cunning, skilled in circumventing most security systems, and athletically adept. As his successful heists continued, Breitwieser became more careless, until his crime spree ended.

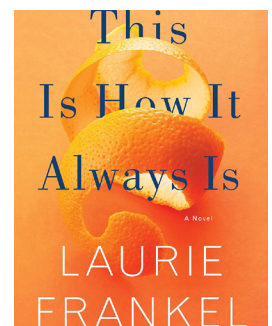
Author Michael Finkel delves into Breitwieser's psyche and love of art — in a way similar to his exploration of a hermit in his previous book, *The Stranger in the Woods*. As the introduction to *The Art Thief* notes: "This is a riveting story of art, crime, love, and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost." Readers definitely will not be disappointed!!

--Mary Fran Buckley

***This is How it Always Is* by Laurie Frankel**

This is the story of a family where the youngest child is transitioning from Claude to Poppy and how each member approaches this change. When the family moves they keep this information secret, through omission, and keeping this secret has an impact on the entire family. It discusses how the parents face making decisions about what to do in the best interest of their child, and the best interest of their family. All while considering their child's feelings. The parents approach everything they do with love and the best intentions, and it is complicated because they don't agree on the best way forward for their child. A wonderful therapist acts as their guide. The Father's amazing fairytale told to the children throughout their childhood and throughout the book, beautifully mirrors the family's challenges.

Our book group decided to read this book that takes on the timely issue of a family grappling with a child transitioning from a boy to a girl. The author's own child transitioned in real life and this is a fictional work that came from that experience. This book provides different perspectives and a chance to really think about this issue. The introduction of Thai cultural beliefs around gender are eye opening. Our discussion centered around the importance of understanding, rather than judging, and taking time to have important discussions in a caring way. This thought provoking book is one that encourages discussion and should be added to your book group list.



--Tina Rood