

FFPL



Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

WINTER UPDATE 2003

FFPL



Kathleen H. Murray - President

Update on Renovation Activities

Planning Activities for the Main Library

Planning activities for the Main Library renovation are proceeding apace. The current phase has involved developing a 'wish list' for the scope of work to be included in the Request For Proposal (RFP) document to be issued in the Spring. The RFP will be drafted by a team consisting of the Library Trustees and Director, the Town Building Committee, and the Town Administrator. The RFP will be advertised by the Town according to a legal process, and from the responses to it, an architect will be selected to develop a design and drawings for the renovation construction.

Developing the scope of work wish list has been a lengthy process of incorporating ideas solicited from the staff, trustees, and the public, and from the work of consultants sponsored by the trustees over a two year period. On Saturday, January 18, 2003, the Friends hosted a public meeting to obtain input for this wish list. The session was filmed for airing on Channel 13. The Friends also issued a one-page survey by mail to their membership, and provided copies of it for patrons at all three libraries.

The response both to the meeting and to the survey was very gratifying. Participation in the meeting was lively and useful, and, some 180 surveys were returned with many helpful comments on both renovation ideas and current library services. The resulting ideas were merged with those submitted by staff and trustees, and then presented for further review to the steering committee of trustees, rep-

resentatives from the Town Building Committee, and the library administration.

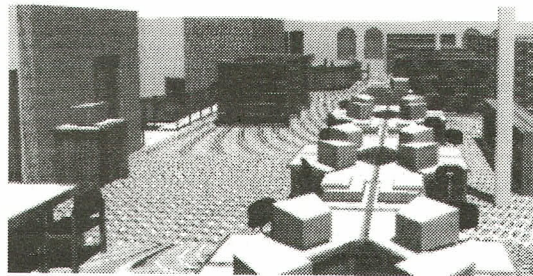
The next steps will include examination for procedural reasons by the whole Town Building Committee, trustee review of changes, then preparation of a final document with required legal text for submission to the proper advertising vehicles. The Designer Selection Process, using the RFP document to set the basic specifications for the work and eligi-

bility levels for the architect, represents a state-mandated bid process, and is a requirement for a state construction grant. At the end of the process, the architect selected will begin work on a design to incorporate the scope of work developed from the wish list but trans-

formed through his or her own creative vision.

The funding for this design phase was approved at the November 2002 Town Meeting. Once a design is in hand, the trustees will bring a request for construction funding to another Town Meeting, possibly in 2004, and will apply for a state construction grant. The timetable for all of these steps up to and including the construction itself is on a fast-track, but as all of us know, the general uncertainties these days could alter the timing of any one of the project's phases. For now though, we are forging ahead and assume a positive outcome. Public support for this project is most encouraging, and, we thank and commend the Friends for their vital participation in it.

Nancy Serotkin,
Director



Information Commons View

Friends of the
Falmouth
Public Library
A non-profit organization
Post Office Box
480 Falmouth, MA
02541

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Friends Announce New Joy of Learning Schedule for March 2003

THIS IS A FRONT PAGE ALERT!!! INSIDE YOU WILL FIND THE SCHEDULE OF COURSES WHICH WILL BE OFFERED IN MARCH BY OUR JOY OF LEARNING PROGRAM.



Joy of Learning Schedule of Courses for Spring 2003

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will offer three new courses which will begin Monday, March 3, 2003. 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, March 3, 10, 17, 24

10:00 am to 11:00 am

ELEMENTS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC: MELODY, RHYTHM, HARMONY and FORM

Howard Whitmore Minister of Music, First Congregational Church, Falmouth, B.M. Ashland U., M.M. Kent State U.

Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26

Noon to 1:00 pm

WOODROW WILSON: Two terms of triumph and tragedy 1912 - 1920. Visionary, Enigma, Academic as President.

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

Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

RUSSIA, 1884 - 1918: Nicholas, Rasputin, and Lenin: the Inept, the Invidious and the insidious. How did these three men exercise the power of the state?

Mary Palmer B.S. Boston College, M.S. Education U.S.C.

Cut here

To register: Send your selections with your name, address and phone number to:
Joy of Learning, P.O. Box 480, Falmouth, MA 02541
Please keep course descriptions as your record.

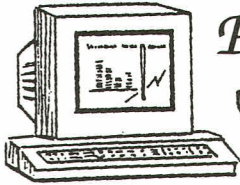
Name _____ Address _____

_____ Phone _____

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

Classical Music _____ Wilson _____

_____ Russia _____



President's Corner

Notes from the President

Response to survey on library/renovation project You were asked and you responded

You were asked and you responded. As you remember, in early January, you were mailed the annual membership / donation letter and an additional page inviting your input on the library renovation project. The Trustees and Staff of the Falmouth Public Library were pleased with the number of attendees and the interest shown at the open meeting on January 18. Thanks to FCTV, more of you were able to see it on Channel 13. In addition, more than 180 Friends of the Falmouth Public Library mailed or brought in responses to the survey. Thank you. Thank you.

All surveys have been read and suggested improvements to the building have been shared with the trustees. Information on use of and improvements to the services go to the staff. Some patrons also chose to add nice compliments and I would like to share a few of those with you.

"Great Library - Excellent Staff."

"I love the library!"

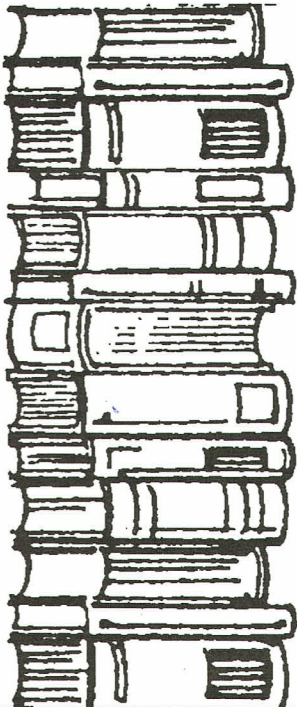
"The children's department is outstanding and the story telling program a joy."

"I commend the N. Falmouth Branch - They are outstanding!" "I just love our library! Great staff!"

I think that we all agree that we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful resource in Falmouth. Thank you for participating in this project and for renewing your membership and / or giving a donation. Remember: all dues and donations are tax deductible as they go directly to support the library in such extras as museums passes, programs, and furniture.

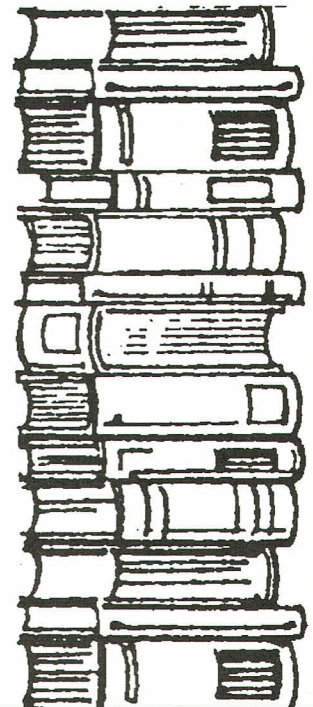
— Kathleen H. Murray

Booksale Next Summer



The Under the Tent Summer Booksale will be held Friday, June 27 until noon on Tuesday, July 1. Remember the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library when you do your spring cleaning as we organize and price books all year long. We do have limited space so please no textbooks, "Reader's Digest", or "National Geographic". Last Fall we told you where many of our books that were left from the summer booksale went. This year, as we sort books on a weekly basis, we are finding good homes for our excess paperbacks and some duplicate hardbound books. We have given books to the Hospital's Faxon Center, Veteran's Hospitals, Woodbriar, and two nursing homes. If you know of a worthy home for our excess books now or following the summer sale, please let us know in advance. The library and the Friends book sales do have first choice, of course. You have been generous in your donations - please continue to be so and thank you on behalf of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library.

— Kathleen H. Murray
President



Book Review

It is the policy of the Friends Newsletter to accept book reviews from our members in all areas except those that are inappropriate. We not only accept them. We welcome them. The editor occasionally write reviews when none are forthcoming from the members. Her choice of books is both random and eclectic. There has never been a conscious desire to promote the sale of a local book. Please feel free to contribute to the Newsletter and send your reviews to FFPL, Box 480, Falmouth, MA 02541.

Total Commitment A Dialogue About Marriage

by Diane and John Rehm

I am a self-help book junky. A few months ago I read that Diane and John Rehm were coming to Eight Cousins Bookstore October 8, 2002 to discuss their new book *Toward Commitment A Dialogue about Marriage*. I jumped at the chance to go and see them and so did about 50 other people waiting at the front entrance of Eight Cousins.

Diane opened the presentation by introducing herself and explaining why she and her husband John wrote this book. She told the audience that divorce rates have dropped 49% because of the economy. Her biggest concern is young people "jumping" into marriage, mainly because they do not know who they are. "It is a test of endurance and effort," she said.

Toward Commitment, which is divided into 27 topics that should be discussed in a relationship, is the only book, according to the authors, written inside a marriage, in this case, their marriage. Each chapter includes a dialogue between Diane and her husband discussing each other's point of view on specific topics.

John described his first meeting with Diane in 1958. As a lawyer assigned to a legal unit of the State Department, he had to walk by her desk each day where she worked as a secretary to a Foreign Service officer. To find out how their first date went, read *Diane's and John's Appeal*, one of my favorite dialogues. As John told his listeners, "In marriage things get pulled and stretched trying to deal with certain situations." *Toward Commitment* will show the reader just that.

During the question period, I asked them which subject they had found the most difficult to write about, and they agreed that it was the chapter on in-laws. Read the book and find out why. They also agreed that keeping secrets from one another separates couples in a marriage more than sharing what is on their minds. The more things hidden in a marriage, the more difficult the relationship becomes. Honesty is the most important part of a marriage according to John. Couples must deal with their issues.

All these topics can be found in their book which is a fine read. I am 26 years old and have not thought that much about marriage, but when I do, I will keep this book in mind and so should you! If only all couples could be this open in private, let alone publishing it in a book. Hats off to John and Diane for their fine work.

—Jill Orluskie

Three Books by Anne Perry

As the Cleveland Plain Dealer states of books written by Anne Perry, "Her grasp of Victorian Character and conscience still astonishes." This month I have read three of her fiction books. The main character in her books is Monk. He is a private investigator with an amnesia problem because of an accident he suffered. He is no longer with the police because he is also a rebel and does not always "suffer fools easily".

The settings of these books are in Victorian times (mid-1800's). Monk is a very ethical man who is constantly trying to put the pieces of his mental life together and still serve the cause of justice with compassion and intelligence. But the character of Hester is the one I most identified with and liked the best. She and Monk are married. Hester is a nurse and an admirer of Florence Nightingale. Nurses in Victorian times were little more than scullery maids working in very unsanitary conditions with very little respect. Hester was involved in the Crimean War where she saw things that changed her life forever. She is an advocate for changes in the way nurses are treated and, also, patients—especially old, neglected veterans. It is a constant struggle because the administrators are pompous and unenlightened. "It's wrong. How can we do it? We turn to our bravest and best when we are in danger, we sacrifice so much—fathers and brothers, husbands and sons—and then a decade, a generation later, we only want to forget! What's the matter with us?"

The stories I read all contain compassion for the underdog and very interesting plots that entertain and grab you. The mystery of who-done-it is not clear until the very end of the story. Good reading and thought provoking.

—Anne Toran

What to See in D.C.

by Marilyn Sanborn

This is the third winter in which I have gone sightseeing in Washington D. C. with my daughters and each one seems to be colder than the one before. As the three of us squeezed up the narrow stairs of Mount Vernon, I heard one daughter say to the other, "I wonder how she's going to make a travel article amusing writing about this?" We had not been very apprecia-



Mount Vernon

tive of George Washington's beautiful home on the Potomac up to that point and it did not get much better.

To be fair, winter is not the best time to go as you are pretty much confined to the house itself and even at Christmas time the decorations are sparse as only greens were used back in the 18th century. You are ushered into the great dining room by the guide and the tour begins. Another group was hearing the tail end while still another was coming in the door as we stood in the middle wondering why everything was so rushed. There were traffic jams on the stairs, not helped by a guide who did not appear to know her right from her left when directing us.



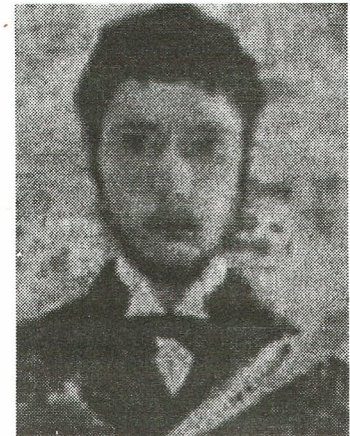
Dining Room at Mount Vernon.

It was over in no time and we felt that we had hardly begun to learn about the famous mansion although we did learn that George appreciated gossip and one room was used largely for that purpose. Hardier souls than we went on to see the out-buildings while we retired to a tent where cider and molasses cookies were served. We were given Martha

Washington's recipe for her "great cake" which is made with 40 eggs and four pounds of butter. It makes 11 pounds of cake and will keep for months. It sounded a lot like that notorious fruit cake that has been making the rounds for so many years. In the unlikely event that I return it will surely be when the weather is mild and the gardens are in bloom. One daughter said that she might return in the spring with her three very lively little boys. I am not entirely sure I want to be along on that trip either.

There are many books in CLAMS about Mount Vernon and even a videocassette in Wellfleet I believe. There are also at least one or two in the Children's Department.

Much more to my taste was an afternoon spent at the familiar and beautiful home of the Phillips Collection, wandering through the rooms filled with the paintings of Pierre Bonnard, an artist I knew only by name. Long recognized as a master of 20th century painting, he was also an



Pierre Bonnard self portrait.

illustrator, set designer, printmaker, and photographer. The show now at the Phillips, *Pierre Bonnard: Early and Late*, includes over 130 of his works in all media, but for me it was the paintings done after his extended stay in the south of France that eclipsed all the rest. Color! Color! Color! Bright orange, lavender, turquoise, all the colors of that sun splashed country already made immortal by Matisse. What an effect the latter had on his contemporaries! When the British artists, Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, were introduced to Matisse and saw his work, their own work

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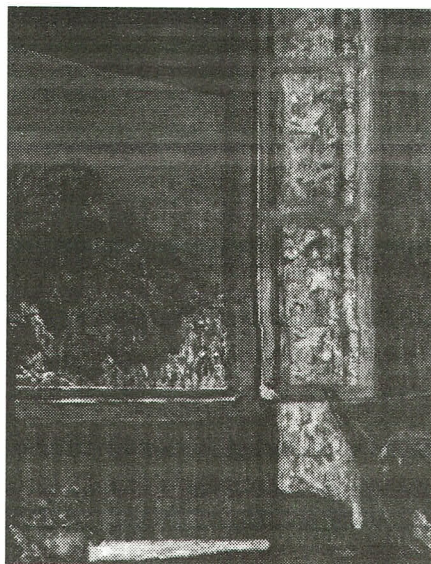
What to See in D.C.

Continued from page 5

was never the same and I might also add what an improvement. My favorite work of Bonnard's in the show was **The Open Window** with **The Terrace** and **Grape Harvest** not far behind.

If you have never been to the Phillips Collection, put it on your list of places to see in D. C. The shows change periodically and the home collection is worth a visit by itself. There are several books about Bonnard at the library with an outstanding one in Provincetown.

By the time we had given back those all important headphones with the accompanying narrator, we were tired and hungry and it was time for tea. My daughter chose the Mayflower Hotel and she put on her chauffeur's hat and delivered us to the front entrance. There is perhaps no culinary event I look forward to more than teatime, and there is no event which is consistently more of a disappointment. The



The Open Window

teapots can be made of the heaviest silver, the cups the most fragile, the tablecloths the thickest, but somehow the food never lives up to one's expectations, particularly in a big hotel. The tea itself is usually good, and at least it is brewed, but it is apparently all but impossible for a kitchen to come up with tea sandwiches that are moist and tasty. The Mayflower did not change my opinion unfortunately. Although beautifully displayed on tiered dishes, the sandwiches were not just a bit dry. They were very dry. The pastries were somewhat

better, but Paris need not worry about any competition. I remember a pastry I had there! It was unforgettable! When the French do something right they really do it right. Their food is delectable! Their art is fantastic! Paris is the most beautiful city in the world! What else can we say except Vive la France!!!



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