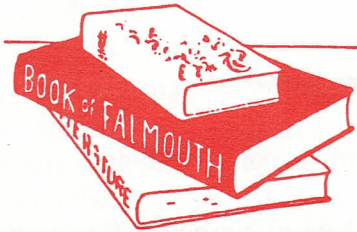


FFPL

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library



Newsletter

Winter 1999

FRIENDS DISPENSE OVER \$48,000 TO THE LIBRARY FROM 1992 TO 1998

This is the time of year when the Main Library presents its Wish List to the Friends, a procedure we have engaged in, informally at first and then officially, since the Friends were first established in April of 1992. We would like to share with our members how our money has been spent.

The total of \$48,171 was spent in the following categories:

Museum passes	\$11660	25%
Audio-Visual: Adult	\$ 9600	20%
Audio-Visual: Children	\$ 3375	7%
Branches (materials)	\$ 5600	12%
Programs	\$ 3000	6%
Equipment	\$ 3300	7%
Furnishings	\$ 9352	19%
Building projects	\$ 1500	3%
Other	\$ 584	1%

Materials total: \$30325 or 63%

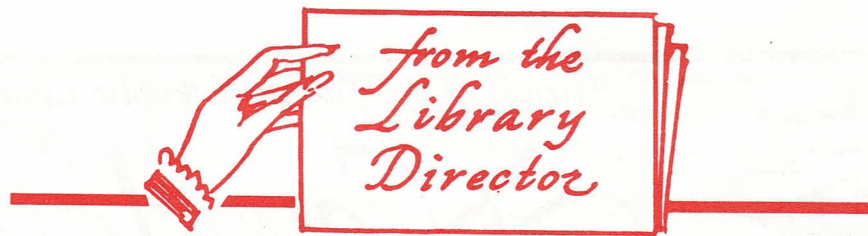


Our main sources of fund raising are our Booksale in July, members' dues and donations. In a formula devised by the Friends, the dues and donations are matched to determine the amount that we give to the library each year. The remaining funds, once operating expenses have been deducted, are invested to produce income to give the library at a future date. The vital element in the equation is our membership. It is you who volunteer and patronize our booksales, pay your dues, either annually or as a lifetime member, and make those extra much appreciated donations. Keep up the good work. We're depending on you. Help us to make the library even better than the great one it already is.

Anyone seeking further information about the various activities of the Friends is encouraged to attend one of our Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month or to write to us at FFPL, Box 480, Falmouth, MA 02541



LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
Support Your Friends



The Library had a busy and successful 1998. Though most of our year-end reports are geared toward a fiscal year, it is always useful to look back on the calendar year to see its highlights and to gain perspective for launching into a new one.

Highlights of 1998 at the Library include our very well-received career grant, the renovation of the Main Library's circulation services area, installation of a new materials security system, beautification efforts on the Main Library grounds, building and grounds improvements at the Branches, and this year's First Prize in the Adult Walking Unit category for the staff entry in December's holiday parade.

The Career Connection@FPL grant took off and soared through 1998 with 18 special programs for the public, two new computer workstations with career decision-making software, an infusion of new career resource materials, and a Coordinator for the grant year who not only organized the programs but also assisted 150 individuals with the new 'career connection' resources and provided 175 individual consultations.

Other library programs provided cultural offerings as well. For adults the immensely popular Death and Desert and Sisters in Crime were special highlights. For young adults, a full summer reading program was organized as well as special events such as Poetry Reading, Newspaper Writing and Mind Bending Puzzles. For children and their families a smorgasbord of story hour cycles plus a variety of seasonal and summer reading program events took place. Adding up school class visits, adult instructional tours, and all programming efforts involving library staff, the total in 1998 came to 385 for adults with 1,746 attending them, and, 344 for children with 8049 attending those. Over 800 children registered in June for the Summer Reading Program.

In addition, the library bustled with activity during the Winter and Fall series of the Friends' Joy of Learning series. These free courses offered to the public at the Library are always very popular and very well attended. Attendees often pursue interests stimulated by these courses by utilizing library materials afterwards. We continue to hear from the public that the Joy of Learning courses and the other library programs are very much

appreciated cultural events in the community.

Displays and exhibits have grown both in frequency and popularity as library offerings. Everything from a book table of 'staff picks' to well-planned displays of specialized collections succeed in catching the eye of the public and often inspire whole new worlds of interest. A sampling of exhibits in 1998 is: aquaculture, handmade paper, doll house furniture, blacksmithing, and several displays of photographs.

The Childrens Department this past year rotated exhibits of personal collections lent by young patrons, and offered a continuous array of displays showcasing books to pique young interests. A special highlight was original art work by a local award-winning picture book author. Children's services are coordinated among all three libraries so that children can visit both their neighborhood libraries and the Main Library downtown. The computer for children from the Friends continues to be a very popular resource.

In buildings and grounds improvements, the renovated adult circulation services area at the Main Library was a major accomplishment, but other significant highlights include the beautified side plot at Main, the new Reading Room chairs at the East Branch donated by the Friends, and the new and improved front door at the North Branch.

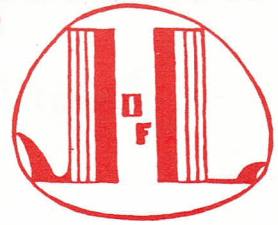
The library staff made the effort again to enter the December holiday parade and ended up with First Prize in the Adult Walking Unit category. Their entry creatively bridged the idea of library services with the parade's central theme. I am proud of their accomplishment and feel it truly mirrors their dedication to serving the community well.

To serve the community well, we depend on support from the Trustees, the Friends, and the public in general. We are grateful for that continuing help in 1998.

As we look ahead in 1999, we anticipate projects for library improvements and for maintaining high levels of service. In this pivotal year, we are assessing priorities and preparing for the future, as many of you no doubt are doing too. Perhaps library resources will be of assistance to us all. See you here in the New Year! And, thanks Friends for a great 1998.

Joy of Learning requests your help

Joy of Learning Program IX began on Monday, February 1, 1999. We are proud to be offering courses in Art Songs with Howard Whitmore and Mary Palmer; Architecture with Fred Douglas; Canadian Literature with Lou Larrey; and Mary, Queen of Scots with Mary Palmer.



The courses have begun and the teachers look forward to a pleasant and successful experience for everyone. The Friends are very grateful for all the time and effort our volunteer teachers have expended for Joy of Learning but we have imposed on many of the same teachers over and over. The time has come to find some new candidates among the Friends or their friends who are filled with knowledge, expertise or even obsession that they are eager to share with us. Do you know someone who would like to participate in this very worthwhile program? There are no tests, no trick questions, just an explosion of grateful learners waiting for their enthusiastic passionate teachers.

If, like Chaucer's scholar, you would gladly learn and gladly teach, please contact Mary Palmer at Box 480, Falmouth, MA 02541 with your ideas and suggestions.

One Trustee's Reflections on the Approaching Millenium



"Why not an appreciative pause?"



People of Eastern Europe who fled Soviet repression to the safety of the United States decry our lack of appreciation of our basic freedoms and liberties. They unfortunately have a very strong argument. It is human nature and certainly an American trait to take for granted the basic benefits of life.

At a moment of time perhaps the German citizens of the Weimar republic shared this complacency. Then came Hitler.

On the evening of May 10, 1933, . . . "there occurred in Berlin a scene which had not been witnessed in the Western world since the late middle ages. At about midnight a torchlight parade of thousands of students ended at a square on the Unter der Linden opposite the University of Berlin. Torches were put to a huge pile of books that had been gathered there, and as the flames enveloped them more books were thrown on the fire until some twenty thousand had been consumed. Similar scenes took place in several other cities. The book burning had begun," (William L. Shirer, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich", 1960).

Shirer concludes that what resulted was "the regimentation of culture on a scale which no modern Western nation had ever experienced."

Fast forward to the 'near millenium' year of 1999. . . and as you enter the Main Falmouth Library, seeking any kind of book and knowing it will be available . . . why not pause for a moment and give thanks that we live in a free society. Then we can go back to taking it all for granted.

Ned Nolan
January, 1999

The Reference Department of
The Falmouth Public Library

presents

A Travel Talk. . . A Story with Slides

by **Tom O'Connell** (Cape Cod Times
Advice Columnist-Author-Journalist-Lecturer)

Memories of Ireland

on **Tuesday, March 9, 1999**

at 7:00 P. M

The lecturer's Irish heritage... father-and-son special trip 1000 miles "fly and drive".. random visits to interesting and mystical places. . . amusing anecdotes...exploring family roots in Kerry. . . Book of Kells. . . patriot Dan O'Connell's home... Shannon,Kinsale, Roscrea, Adare. . . pristine beaches, mountain mists, winding roads, churches, fort, cemeteries, castles.

Read Any Good Books Lately?
Come to a Bookshare!

What is a Bookshare? It's an informal gathering where you tell people about your favorite book and hear about books other people have enjoyed.

Come to one or come to all.

Not for Children Only:

Your Favorite Children's Book

What is the one children's book you could read over and over and still not tire of? Bring one to share and learn about other favorites.

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Historical Fiction

Well written novels can bring the past alive. Whether your favorite is set in World War II, Victorian England, or the Renaissance, bring it along to share.

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Women in History

Journals, biographies, diaries, memoirs...the world of books is full of fascinating women. Which ones are most memorable and why? Tell us all about it.

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Travel Memoirs

Certain travel authors have the ability to take the reader beyond the ordinary and into the heart and soul of a destination. Whether the author writes about exotic lands or more familiar locales, share your favorite travel book with like-minded adventurers.

Wednesday, March 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

All Bookshares will be held in Room 1 of the Main Library. Please sign up at the Reference Desk or call 457-2555

Falmouth Public Library
123 Katharine Lee Bates Rd.
Falmouth, MA 02540

New Museum Pass Provided by the Friends

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library have purchased still another Museum Membership for the use of the library's patrons. The membership for the

Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, R.I.

will go into effect on February 1, 1999. The pass will provide a discount admission rate for any combination of four adults and/or children. The discount rate per adult is \$3.00; the discount rate for Seniors and/or children is \$1.75. The library owns one pass for each day of the week. Reservations for these passes are recommended.

The Roger Williams Park Zoo is operated and maintained by the City of Providence Parks Department, and supported by the Rhode Island Zoological Society. The zoo is filled with more than 160 species of rare and fascinating animals, everything from big furry cats to naked mole rats and multi-colored birds all displayed in expansive natural settings. It is great fun for the entire family and a terrific place to learn about what's being done to protect and restore endangered species. From the Plains of Africa to the South American rain forests this exotic world awaits the arrival of you and your family - and all made possible by the Friends.

DIRECTIONS

FROM INTERSTATE 95S- Take Exit 17 (Elmwood Avenue). Left at light. Then second left into Park. Follow signs to Zoo entrance.

FROM INTERSTATE 95N- Take Exit 16. Bear right. Left at light. Park is 1/2 block on right. Follow signs to Zoo entrance.



ZOO HOURS

The Zoo is open every day except Christmas.

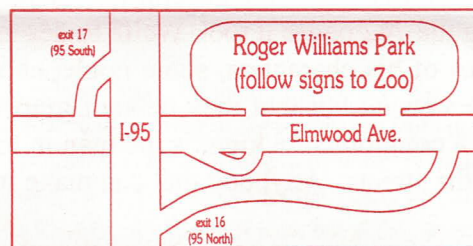
Regular Hours: 9 am - 4 pm

Memorial Day thru Labor Day Hours:

9 am - 5 pm

Admission is charged

For more information call (401) 785-3510



The Friends are pleased to add still another museum pass to our growing list. Other museums for which passes are available at the Main Library include:

The Cape Cod Children's Museum, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Heritage Plantation, New Bedford Whaling Museum and Discovery Center, Plimoth Plantation, Boston Children's Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, and the New England Aquarium.

Introducing an opportunity for members:

Since the first publications of the Friends' Newsletter, your editor has been offering reviews of books and occasionally a movie. Now we would like to give our readers a chance to recommend books they have found to be of particular interest. Books can be in any category and preferably either available or on order at the Falmouth Public Library. Please limit reviews to a paragraph of a few lines and submit to Marilyn Sanborn at Box 480, Falmouth, MA 02541. Below are a few books which Friends' Board members have submitted to start us off.

Saxton, Lisa, **Caught in a Rundown**, can be found in the mystery section of the library. This entertaining book has all the right components: two heroines, an old mystery, car and auto chases and major league baseball. What makes the story really work is how the author develops respect and friendship between two quite different women as they look for Two-Mile McLemore of the old Negro Leagues.
Kathleen Murray

Strauss, William and Howe, Neil, **The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy**. The latest collaboration between these two authors, this 1997 book can be found in the library at 303.4973 STR. The pendulum will swing has often been said. That is what these two authors do, but over a cycle defined as four generations or approximately eighty years. Their study goes from 1435 into the future. Over each cycle we go through four social moods or turnings which are times of strengthening institutions, spiritual upheaval, strengthening individualism and secular upheaval. A new generation starts just before one of these turnings. The generation you were born in determines your reaction to the social mood. Thus, what Strauss and Howe call the 13th generation (often called Generation X) were born 1961-1981 and can be compared to the Lost Generation born 1883-1900. This book or theory is great for discussion. If correct, the next secular upheaval is due about 2005.
Kathleen Murray

1. Books not to miss in 1999! So many books and so little time! However, after you've seen the movie, which I hear is absolutely marvelous, don't forget that **Civil Action**, the book, is even better. You won't be able to put it down.

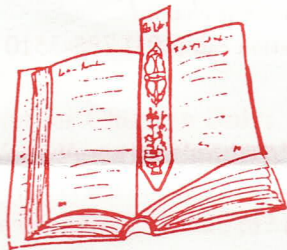
Mary Palmer

3. By any standard Nobel Prize winning poet, Czeslaw Milosz, is an old man but he is a cunning, wily, intelligent, thoughtful old man, and a wonderful collection of his wit and wisdom is available in **Road-side Dog**. It is the ideal book to keep handy when you want or need a charming, poetic, philosophical uplift.

Mary Palmer

2. Another great way to start 1999 is to read Mitch Albon's **Tuesdays With Morrie**, a striking, enthralling story of a good man facing the good night after a well examined life.

Mary Palmer



Book Reviews: Editor's Choice

TOM WOLFE A Man in Full: The blockbuster number one best seller and probably deserves to be if the criteria for selection includes the late night hours spent reading the 742 pages it took Wolfe to describe and dissect the city of Atlanta and the lives of his characters, some noble, some nefarious. Great literature? John Updike says no but that may be sour grapes. Page turner? Absolutely! Charlie

Crocker, once a football star and now a conglomerate king, is the man in the title, but the real star of the book is Atlanta right down to the lay-out of the streets. Anybody that can make maps interesting has to be good.

Who would like this book? Just about everyone except the squeamish and the nostalgic. The daily life behind bars section should perhaps be skipped by those without a strong stomach. Also, those who would prefer to remember Scarlett and Rhett's Atlanta before Sherman got to it might find this novel distasteful. Wolfe doesn't spare anyone, rich or poor, black or white, walking the streets or incarcerated.

Two remarks, one critical and one an observation. The denouement of the novel is weak, but this is often true of novels which tell many different stories at once. The oddity noticed by this reader was that, with a few exceptions, the males were unattractive, usually because they were fat or not fit. The author of course appears to be both thin and fit. Flaws or not, read it and pray that they don't try to make a movie out of it.

Book Reviews, Continued



What Peter Mayle did for Provence back in 1990, Frances Mayes has now done for Tuscany in her poetic, prolific, travel piece, **Under the Tuscan Sun**. Same type of falling apart house, same scorching sun and of course the obligatory natives who have no conception of American time and manage to be delightful no matter how inept and expensive they are.

An accomplished cook and travel writer, Mayes buys and restores an abandoned villa in the spectacular Tuscan countryside. She and her husband literally slave for three summers to turn their beloved **Bramasole** into the place they have dreamed about back in San Francisco. I applauded them all the way, albeit sometimes wondering how she managed to sling very heavy rocks around day after day and actually call it "fun". As a hothouse flower who has aches and pains from carrying my own suitcase I could only marvel at the physical strength of this fiftyish couple who engaged in heavy manual labor continuously for several weeks each summer. It must have been that three hour siesta that saved them.

Not only did Mayes do the work of two men, she performed her tasks while picking redolent greens, herbs and vegetables from her very own garden and quickly throwing together luscious gourmet meals for the constant stream of guests who appeared at all times of the day. And she has the menus to prove it, right there in the book. Bruschette with everything from pecorina and nuts to grilled eggplant, wild mushroom lasagna, thick, soul-stirring bean soup, guinea hen with fennel and roast chicken with polenta topped off with rustic apple bread pudding.

Loaded down with her handbag, carry-on bag and computer she makes the long flight from San Francisco to Paris and then on to Italy. Most people after a trip of that length stretch out and collapse but not our Frances. She immediately begins pulling out stored summer clothes, making up her bed and setting up her computer. Then she puts on her boots and begins walking the terraces. Who is this woman anyway? Brunhilda?

One more thing. Have you ever noticed that people who buy houses in the countryside of foreign countries seem to quickly become the favorites of the natives - the farmers, the shopkeepers, the workmen, etc.? They even begin looking down on the tourists. Americans are particularly guilty of this. I don't imagine we like to think that the natives' affection has anything to do with money. Heavens no! But never mind. It is a delicious book and I'm undoubtedly suffering from a severe case of sour grapes. I was very happy to read on page 272 that she does use number 30 sunblock. Perhaps she really is human after all. M. Sanborn

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA by Arthur Golden.

Why did I have to see this book on the New York Times best-sellers list for 58 weeks before I finally read it? Golden, a member of the famous New York Times family, Ochs-Sulzberger, took 10 years, 3 drafts and 2300 manuscript pages to write this fictitious autobiography. The obvious question is- was it worth it? Clearly the answer is yes if measured by the glowing reviews (the Washington Post critic called it "a breathtaking performance"). One reviewer, however, did mention that he would have preferred it as a biography of a geisha, and Golden wrestled with this problem. He was leery of impersonating a woman but ultimately decided that if he could fake the past he could fake another gender. Does that follow?

He does an excellent job describing a geisha's lifestyle including the way she applies her make-up, styles her hair and gets into her kimono, etc. He also does well with the history of the profession from its height in the 1930's to the present day. It is when he writes about the geisha's relationships and conversations with her male clients that he runs into trouble. One expects servile behavior when a geisha entertains a man, but were they really that silly? Perhaps they were. Perhaps they are. There are still a few left in the famous district of Gion in Kyoto, but surely they have a different routine. Are they still wearing "kimono"? The scene between the virginal Sayari and her first "danna", a wealthy man who supports her, would be ridiculous if it weren't so sad. A man had to be determined and persistent to get through all those layers of clothing which Golden describes in great detail.

The book is devoid of sex despite the above mentioned deflowering of a geisha. There isn't much in the way of love either except Sayari's fondness for a Japanese business man who ultimately keeps her and her child in the United States where he periodically visits her. One hopes that her new life in America encouraged a freer lifestyle and less stilted conversation. Golden does tell us one thing. She may have been on Park Avenue but she was still "in kimono".

Recommendation: A very informative, straightforward description of a largely vanished world, but this reader's breath remained intact.

M. Sanborn

WANTED

Good Used Books
Videos CD's
Cassettes Puzzles

Proceeds to benefit the library

Book donation boxes
are located in the
Main Library, East and North
branches

Please no Textbooks,
Magazines, Reader's Digest
Condensed

Pick Ups can be arranged by
calling **564-4345**

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library 1999-2000 Membership Form

Yes, Count me in! _____ Renewal _____ New Member

Name _____
(Exactly as you wish your membership name to appear)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

_____ \$5 Individual _____ \$100 Life Member
_____ \$10 Family _____ Donation
_____ \$50 Organization

I would like to volunteer in the following way(s).

Book Sale _____ Fundraising _____

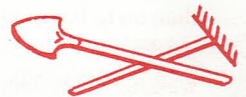
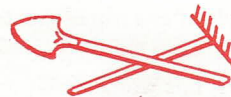
Publicity _____ Other Skills _____

Special Events _____

I am unable to volunteer at this time _____

Make checks payable to the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library
Mail to Box 480, Falmouth MA 02541

A word about gardening:



Your editor would like to thank those of you who have given me positive feedback on the newsletter, particularly in answer to the reviews I have written. Titanic prompted a large outpouring of people who appeared to agree with me that it was not the greatest movie ever made. Second only to Titanic was my article on roses. I particularly liked one reaction from a friend. "Marilyn," she said. "I am not going to grow roses. I grow hydrangeas." Right on! Hydrangeas are one of my favorites too.

Here are a couple of thoughts I picked up from a gorgeous British magazine, **Gardens Illustrated**.

A very wise woman named Mary Keen wrote in an article called Spiritual Growth the following astute advice.

"Gardens are more than the sum of their plants. It is what you put where the plants aren't that makes a garden special." Almost 12 years after starting my first garden on the Cape I am finally coming to realize the truth of this statement. Another thought of hers is equally true:

"I think there is huge value in learning from others, but this objective appraisal of strangers' gardens can lead to a state of permanent greenness for other peoples' grasses." A-men! How many hours have I spent gazing at the gardens of others and wondering if I might copy them. Do your own thing. Make your own mistakes. It's better that way.

M. Sanborn

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