

# Focus on the Fall 2007

✦ Newsletter ~ Friends of Falmouth Public Library ✦

President: Robert O'Toole • Editor: Marilyn Sanborn

## Friends Involved in Many Aspects of the Library

**Where does the money come from?** It is no mystery to any of our members. The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library raise a large percentage of their funds from our annual Summer Booksale on the library lawn. We also make a tidy, but small amount of money on the used books we sell to the public in the lobby or near the front door of the library. The remainder is from dues and donations. We have invested our funds, and suffer along with all of you the ups and downs of the stock market.

**Take the renovation for example.** For it to even begin, the town had to vote yes, and it was partly, even largely, through the efforts and fund raising skills of the then president of the Friends, Yang Conley, that the campaign was successful. Yang enlisted the help of many volunteers from the Friends as well as others to help in this very successful effort to start the library on its way to the beautiful building we all see going up right now on Main Street. We are very proud of the part we have played in making this dream a reality.

**The Friends are supervised by both the trustees and the library director.** We are a subordinate group, but we function independently when making decisions about the allocation of their funds. Our money goes to the library, but the Friends can say how they would like to have it spent. In operation, the library presents a prioritized Wish List annually, and the Friends choose what they would like to fund. It works smoothly and to the benefit of the library. Although the Trustees pay for the adult programs, the Friends pay for the children's programs. When the Reference Department wants to bring a nationally recognized author to speak during the Falmouth Reads program, the Friends foot either part or all of the bill. When the library needs help in updating their computers to keep up to date with the latest technological advances, the Friends are there to help. The list is long. **It is a given that the Friends have made themselves all but indispensable to the library.**

**To be very specific,** our monetary contribution to the library is large when you consider that our group is relatively small and we are all volunteers. Our largest contribution ever is of course the \$50,000 we gave to the library for the renovation. We gave it early on and willingly. We are sure that it is being spent wisely as the construction proceeds. ~ M. SANBORN

FRIENDS ANNOUNCE 7 NEW  
Joy of Learning  
FALL COURSES



SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2007 INSIDE





# Joy of Learning

## Schedule of Courses for Fall 2007

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will offer seven new courses which will begin Tuesday, October 2, 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 ~ 10:15 -11:15 am ~ October 2, 9, 16, 23**

**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 discussion.

*Fred Gitlitz B.A. Colgate, MA Columbia, Ph.D. Columbia*

**Tuesdays ~ 11:30am - 12:45pm ~ October 2, 9, 16, 23**

**Battle of Gettysburg** ~ The 3 day battle of Gettysburg (July 1st ~ 4th, 1863), the greatest battle ever fought on the North American continent, is generally recognized as the turning point in the Union's fortunes during the Civil War. This course will examine the tactical decisions of the major protagonists, General George Meade and General Robert E. Lee, and discuss how and why Lee "lost" this battle after so many victories against the Army of the Potomac.

*Michael McNaught - Trinity College, Oxford University. B.A. and M.A. degrees in Modern History. Specialty in Military History and the Theory of War*

**Tuesdays ~ 1:15 - 2:30pm ~ October 2, 9, 16, 23**

**Victory in the West: Vicksburg and Chattanooga**

Many Civil War historians believe that the Union's victories in the West were of far greater strategic significance than the more highly-visible campaigns of the armies in Virginia. This course will examine two of Ulysses S. Grant's greatest achievements: his campaigns to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1862-63. These two campaigns persuaded Abraham Lincoln to elevate Grant to the rank of Lieutenant-General and command of all the Union Armies in 1864.

*Michael McNaught - Trinity College, Oxford University. B.A. and M.A. degrees in Modern History. Specialty in Military History and the Theory of War*

**Wednesdays ~ 10:15 - 11:15 am ~ October 3, 10, 17, 24**

**Movies! Movies! Movies!** ~ What makes a movie a classic? Part film clips, part discussion about the elements that make a movie memorable. This class is Movies! Movies! Movies! #1. Those who took Movies!, Movies! #2 but missed Movies!, Movies! #1 will not want to miss this opportunity and movie lovers who missed both #1 and #2 will be sure to enjoy Movies! Movies! Movies!

*Fred Gitlitz B.A. Colgate, MA Columbia, Ph.D. Columbia*

**Wednesdays ~ 11:30 - 12:45 pm ~ October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Four Russian Short Stories** ~ Two by Anton Chekhov and two by Isaac Babel. We are indeed fortunate to have Bob Szulkin back with us. All books are readily available in paperback and in collections of Russian Literature.

*Robert Szulkin- Professor Emeritus Brandeis University taught Russian Literature for 40 years. M.A. Harvard University, Ph.D. Harvard University*





# Joy of Learning



## THE COURSES CONTINUE

**Thursdays ~ 10:30 - 11:45 am ~ October 4, 11, 18, 25**

### ***When Falmouth Went A'Whaling***

- **Class 1:** Overview of American Whaling with focus on Elijah Swift, founder of Falmouth's whaling industry and his family.
- **Class 2:** Life on a whaleship and the exciting adventures of Falmouth whalingmen.
- **Class 3:** Falmouth women and children who went whaling with their captain husbands and fathers.
- **Class 4:** A visit to Conant House at Falmouth Museums on the Green to explore the Museums' whaling exhibits.

*Carolyn Partan, A.B. Wellesley (History) New York University of Law*

**Thursdays ~ 1:30pm - 3:00pm ~ October 4, 11, 18, 25**

### ***How to Stay Alive Until Your're Dead ~ a writing seminar***

Building on the information gathered in twenty reminiscence seminars, Susan Baur invites participants to tackle the question of hope, how it is maintained and how passed on. Each session will ask students to write a brief essay (one or two pages). The goal is to discover what fosters hope and to see how stories that generate hope for those in need of care can inspire and support their caregivers as well.

*Susan Baur Ph.D. is a Psychologist and author.*

All classes are held at Falmouth Community Television located next to the Senior Center at 130 Dillingham Avenue. Friends of the Library are grateful to FCTV for the use of their premises during the renovation of the 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

(1) 60 Year Inferno \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Gettysburg: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Vicksburg & Chattanooga: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Movies!: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Russian Stories: \_\_\_\_\_

(6) A'Whaling: \_\_\_\_\_

(7) Stay Alive: \_\_\_\_\_



# NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

## READERS GIVE THE GIFT OF READING TO THOSE IN NEED



I'm having a ball but where's my balloon.

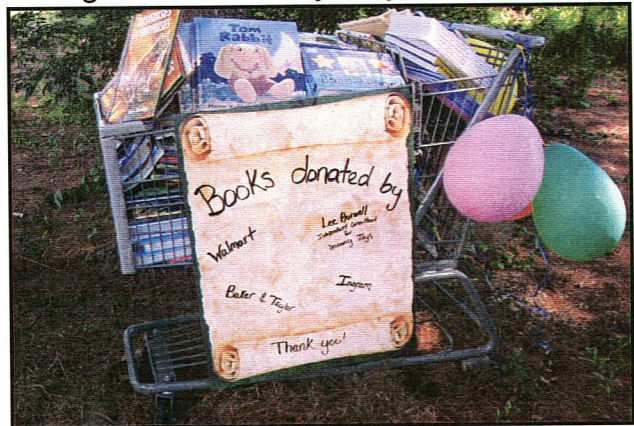
**Over 600 readers** participated in the 2007 summer reading program hosted by the Falmouth Public Library. Changes to the program afforded readers the opportunity to give the gift of reading not only to themselves, but to others in need of books. Kids and even a few adults, set weekly reading goals by signing up at the Main, East and North Falmouth Library Branches. Visitors and locals alike participated. For every ten readers who completed a week of summer reading, a book was earned to donate to the **Falmouth Service Center** and **Young Children First!** Readers who stuck with the program for three or six consecutive weeks earned additional books to donate. Those reading three weeks earned one book, those reading six weeks earned two books.

### All together

summer readers earned 342 books! Wal-Mart, Ingram Books, Baker & Taylor, and former Discovery Toys representative Lee Burwell provided the new books. Brenda Swain, Executive Director of the Falmouth Service Center and Carolyn Minervino, Grant Coordinator/Resource Consultant for Young Children First! will ensure the books are put into the hands of children who need them.

**To reward readers**, Ghelfi's Candies of Cape Cod and Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream helped to provide sign up and completion prizes. Readers also had a chance to win weekly raffles. Windfall Market, Stop-n-Shop and Balloon Creations provided additional support for the program.

**This program** is part of the statewide summer reading initiative implemented by the Massachusetts Regional Library System. MRLS provides artwork, materials and support to promote an annual theme. The Falmouth Public Library customized the theme, Catch the Beat at Your Library, to meet the needs of our community. The program encourages a love of books, family reading and helps children maintain reading skills through summer vacation. Thank you to all who participated in this Summer Reading Adventure. ~ Jennifer S.

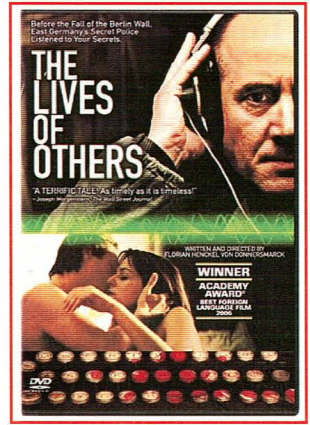




## Let's go to the movies

### *The Lives of Others: A German Film*

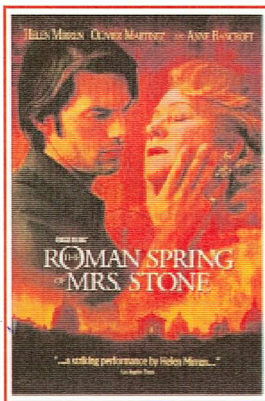
This is a special film dealing with weighty philosophical subjects, but the director and scriptwriter, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, does a brilliant job of weaving all the strands together. I would suggest that you review your modern German history to facilitate your understanding of the plot because, although set in the 1980's in East Berlin, it can switch from the post-Wall period to the pre-Wall time as well as in between. Also, if your eyesight is not 20/20, you need to prepare yourself for English subtitles that give you but a few seconds to read them. Having said that, I still recommend this film highly. It is more than worth the effort.



**From listening to the author** describe, in the Special Features section of the DVD, what he hopes to accomplish, the viewer knows that he is not trying to identify the German Democratic Republic (GDR) with Hitler. Indeed he is anxious that you do not do so. There are similarities, of course, as they were both rigid dictatorships with the accompanying secret police, in this case, the Stasi, but von Donnersmark refrains from identifying the GDR as anything as monstrous as the Third Reich. He prefers to show that many East Germans were ordinary people doing what they thought was right and were caught up in circumstances that perhaps did not give them the leeway to make the best decisions. This, however, in no way detracts from his clear belief that the regime was nothing he would want to live under and his protagonists in the film don't either. He spent 3 years researching and writing the script and it is clear where he stands.

**A successful playwright**, played by Sebastian Koch, and his actress companion, Martina Gedeck, become subjects of the Stasi's secret surveillance program. The man below the headphones listening day and night to all conversations going on in the couple's apartment is the fine actor, Ulrich Muhe, and it is his transformation during the course of the film that rivets the viewer's attention. He is a loyal member of the secret police but he has never read great writers or listened to great music. Bugging the playwright's apartment becomes a revelation for him. Music plays a large part in this movie and the director spent a long time choosing what he wanted. He discarded many for being too familiar (including the Appassionata) and finally commissioned a composer to write a new sonata for him.

**Lenin evidently was a great fan** of Beethoven's Appassionata. Indeed he was known to say that if he had kept on listening to it he would have been patting people's heads instead of chopping them off. And voila! No revolution! Whether we choose to be led by our principles or our emotions is one of the film's themes and the playwright says at the end that we should probably choose the "boring middle." Our lives might be less upsetting but wouldn't it be dull? Wouldn't we still belong to Great Britain? This DVD is now available in CLAMS.



### *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone: Helen Mirren*

I saw this Tennessee Williams novel, on which this film is based, referred to as elegiac, and I thought that was the wrong word, but on looking up elegiac, I found that it is a correct usage. Elegiac means to express sorrow for what is irrevocably past and that surely is what Mrs. Stone engages in throughout this movie. I had seen the much earlier version of this film (1961, available in CLAMS) starring Vivien Leigh, and I was intrigued to see that it had been remade with Helen Mirren playing the Leigh role.

**Recently I reviewed** Mirren playing Elizabeth I, and her huge success as Elizabeth II in The Queen now on DVD so why would anybody think she couldn't play an aging Broadway actress who settles in Rome after the death of her husband? Williams is certainly in his element with this plot, idyllic love ending in chaos, so is there a problem? Well, kind of, for me anyway. Vivien Leigh has been inscribed in my memory as THE Mrs. Stone, and Leigh is beautiful and delicate. Helen Mirren is neither. She is a superb actress and perhaps a more realistic one physically for this role. The problem is that because of her less than pretty face and the harsh heavy makeup she wears, she appears hard and undesirable. With her legs in the air in an open convertible on a country road, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

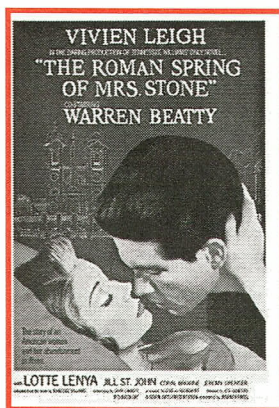


**Roman Spring: Mirren** (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5) under her Italian gigolo, Olivier Martinez (he played a similar role in *Unfaithful* you may recall), panting and moaning, it was not difficult to understand why he was only in it (excuse the pun) for the money. Poor Karen Stone was the only one deluded by his intentions. She had been clever in not falling for the obvious machinations of the wizened-up old countess (played brilliantly as usual by Anne Bancroft) who supplied young men to the evidently never ending supply of widows flaunting their wealth in post World War II Italy. Mrs. Stone of course outwits herself and falls victim to Conte Paola di Lio's persistence and charm. The penultimate scene is predictable but the ending is both absurd and objectionable.

**New York magazine** recorded the death recently of the revered matriarch of New York society, Mrs. Vincent Astor (Brooke to her fans of which I am one), and pictured her in one of her many gorgeous ball gowns. I am convinced that whoever designed Mirren's clothes for this film copied Mrs. Astor's exact gown for one of Mrs. Stone's evenings with Paolo. What was that dancing scene on all those rocks about anyway? I found it ridiculous.

**Articles about** Mirren's skill as an actress often refer to her willingness to walk the extra mile in order to make her character live for her viewers. This film is no exception. In one scene she is quite naked, and is sitting in bed beside her sleeping lover. She strokes his satin smooth back and then holds up her perhaps 50 or 60 year old hand and arm. The comparison brings on tears and who among us older women would not sympathize with her.

**This movie** was originally on Showtime and is now available in CLAMS. If you like your movies bawdy this version may have more appeal for you but why not watch both?



### ANOTHER VERSION *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone: Vivien Leigh*

I just received the DVD from Netflix and found that my memory was not as good as I had thought. Vivien Leigh was still quite lovely and fragile looking, but I had entirely forgotten how very bad Warren Beatty was in the role of the Italian gigolo. Olivier Martinez was a huge improvement in the Mirren version. At least he was Italian. Beatty was fresh from his success in *Splendor in the Grass* with Natalie Wood and wanted a role that would not typecast him. He had read the *Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, Tennessee Williams's novella, and knowing Williams personally, he flew to Puerto Rico to meet with him after dyeing his hair black, applying dark make up and practicing an Italian accent. He got the role and undoubtedly wished in retrospect that he had not. The reviews were dreadful and he went into a slump for a couple of years.

**Vivien Leigh** was in much worse shape when the movie was filming as she had just been through a divorce from Lawrence Olivier and was ill with chronic tuberculosis which took her life not that long afterward. The movie was made in 1961 and she died in 1967 at the age of 54. On the set of *Gone With the Wind* she had smoked 4 packs of cigarettes a day.

**She maintained** her reputation as a fine actress, and one can still see remnants of the coquettish Scarlett in her portrayal of Karen Stone but it must have cost her dearly. She wears a very heavy pastelike white makeup in the film which makes her look clownish at times, somewhat similar to the make up that Queen Elizabeth I wore to cover the damage of small pox.

**Leigh's clothes** are all light pastels of flowing chiffon, a good deal more becoming to a woman of a certain age than the heavy satin and brocade favored by Helen Mirren in the more recent version, but to each his own. Clothes cannot make a movie good if it is not.

**The Anne Bancroft role** is played by Lotte Lenya and she is equally as good in the role, not so wizened but just as conniving.

**6 Here's a fun combination**, the sensuous Martinez and "our darling Scarlett". Warren Beatty was a dead loss.  
~ M. Sanborn



## Open House Celebrates Renovation Work and Progress

Stop by the tent on the library lawn on Main Street on Saturday, September 29th from 10 am to 4:00 pm in the afternoon to see what's happening with the library renovations! View floor plans, decorating plans, photos and take a fence tour to learn about what's going on inside the building! Music, entertainment, kids activities and more will make this a fun event for all those curious about the exciting progress at the "new" library. Information about naming opportunities and ways to support the campaign will also be available. Rain date is Sunday, September 30th. Call the FPL Capital Campaign at 508-403-4222 with questions.

### "Staff Picks" available on Cart in Library

Looking for your next book? The staff of the library has put together a collection of their favorite titles for patron perusal. Called STAFF PICKS, this fast-moving collection resides on a small book cart and is identified by the fluorescent orange bookmarks that staff members have used to jot down their thoughts about each title. Check the STAFF PICKS cart regularly. There are new titles being added all the time. While you are in the library pick up one or two of our themed booklists. Whether you're interested in a record of all the books mentioned by our own Jill Erickson the last time she was interviewed on The Point by Mindy Todd, or a list of Jodi Picoult read-a-likes, you'll be able to find it in the library.

### Friends Asking for "New Book" Donations

The Friends are now accepting good-as-new books in pristine condition for their sale of "books as "gifts" in December. Donations may be delivered to the FFPL headquarters at 359 Main Street and will be accepted until Thanksgiving.

The Christmas Sale will run for three days: • Friday, November 30th from 10 am to 4 pm  
• Saturday, December 1st from 10 am to 2 pm • Sunday, December 2nd also from 10 am to 2 pm

## Book Review

***The House the Rockefellers Built: (A Tale of Money, Taste and Power in Twentieth Century America)*** By **Robert F. Dalzell Jr** and **Lee Baldwin Dalzell**

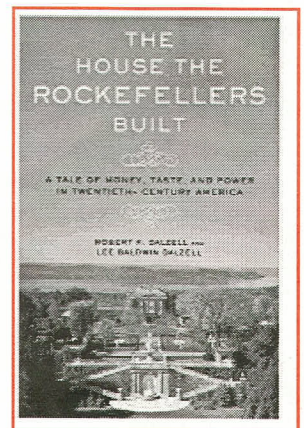
**I have often been accused** of being interested in the wealthy and I plead guilty. I find the whole subject fascinating although I do prefer the tasteful rich. I also like family sagas and I hit the jackpot with this book.

**For background**, one must start with John Davison Rockefeller, the head of the clan, and the much maligned founder of Standard Oil who was regarded as ruthless by much of the world but was the greatly loved father of three daughters and one son, John Davison Rockefeller Jr. Junior married Abby Aldrich and they had what came to be known as "the brothers", John III, Laurence, Winthrop, David and Nelson. The offspring of the brothers came to be known as "the cousins".

**They are all in this book**, but the main story belongs to Junior and his father. They were faced with a dilemma when Senior's house in New York burned down and needed to be replaced. That was in 1902. It was not until 1915 that the house, gardens and landscaping were finally completed. Situated in the Pocantico Hills high above the Hudson River in New York state, Kykuit, (a Dutch word meaning "lookout") which rhymes with high-cut, became home, on and off, to all of the family until Nelson willed his share of the surrounding park and Kykuit to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. His brothers were outraged causing Nelson to back off a bit, but he died a month later with the will unchanged. After intense squabbling among the brothers over a period of years and in spite of the fact that the last surviving brother, David Rockefeller ( he died in 2007 ), never wanted it to leave the family, Kykuit was finally opened to the public.

**Arguments** between Senior and Junior went on for years with the former preferring something "ungrand" and Junior and Abby wanting a showplace. The final product had so many mistakes that they had to rebuild. How could members of one of the richest families in the country, who had access to the best architects, decorators and landscapers, have ever come up with such a monstrosity? It appeared that everyone remotely connected with the planning had input. Completed, and I assume still there, are stonewalls, ivy from England, grooved rocks, terraces, pools, summer pavilions, pergolas, lights, lanterns, fountains, statuary, classical figures, tennis courts, a grotto room, an orangerie, a Japanese brook and garden, a teahouse, and that is just for a start.

**After reading this book**, I have a list of books about the Rockefellers I'd like to read. First, a biography of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. She appeared to be to the Rockefellers what Abigail was to the Adams family.



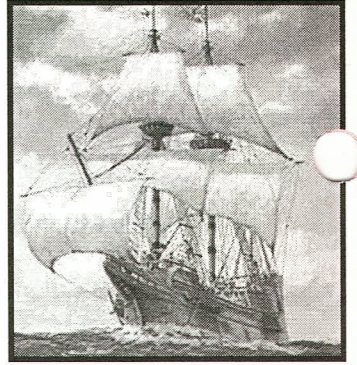
~ M. Sanborn



## 🎨 Book Review 🎨

### **Mayflower (A Story of Courage, Community and War)**

**Nathaniel Philbrick, Viking, 2006.**



**In order** to reap the considerable value of this book, the reader must persevere. It is not a page turner, but with patience and determination, the investment is well worth the time and effort.

**Philbrick is** a meticulous historical researcher, and there is clearly a regional twist since the book is covering closeby geography and familiar place names.

**The saga** of the dissenters from Scrooby, England who lived in Leiden, Netherlands for better than a decade, under the leadership of John Robinson, and their perilous two month crossing, (all cramped, 102 of them), is indeed heroic and captivating. Upon landing in the New World, they were greeted by Indians decimated by a recent disease. The Indians, under the impressive leadership of Massasoit, permitted them to survive the cruel first winter. As the story unfolds, we witness the incalculable value of cooperation and alliance to both Indians and newcomers. Many of the Pilgrim leaders fare well in Philbrick's analysis. One who doesn't is the barely five foot Miles Standish. Perhaps stature determines destiny. Standish is condemned as an impulsive and brutal militarist.

**The major thrust** of the book concerns itself with the second and third generation offspring of the Pilgrims who did not learn or appreciate the lesson of their grandparents. They sought riches and land, land that could only be procured at the expense of the Indians. They also began to lump all Native Americans into one category, to be mistrusted, exploited and ultimately destroyed. Sad indeed, and a prelude to what Helen Jackson Hunt referred to as "A Century of Dishonor". Also sad, and oft repeated, Pilgrim and Puritan dissenters could not tolerate dissension from their doctrines.

**This led to** the extremely bloody and costly King Phillip's War of the mid 1600's, a war that all seemed to "stumble into" (like Iraq), a war that nearly destroyed white and red alike, and devastated the New England economy for a century.

**There were** many heroes in this tale. Two that emerge from the War, Benjamin Church and Mary Rowlandson who was captured, spared and eventually ransomed by Indians during the War.

**The book** puts to rest the myths, the hero worship and one sidedness of our perspective on these early founders of white hegemony in the New world. I recommend this book. ~ Ned Nolan, Library Trustee

## • • • INVITATION • • •

**By popular demand Meg Borden, East Falmouth Branch Librarian, and Midge Berman, faithful patron, are joining forces to inaugurate the East Falmouth Fact and Fiction Book Discussion series. The first topic in the series will be immigration. Please meet us for tea at the East Falmouth Library on Tuesday morning September 11th at 10:00 am to launch this new discussion series.**

*Friends of the Falmouth Public Library*

BOX 480

Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541

US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 63  
Falmouth, MA 02540



*Joy of Learning*  
New Courses starting in October  
**SIGN UP TODAY**