



HOLIDAY BOOK SALE



Day 1 * Members Only	Wednesday	November 29	2pm - 7pm
Day 2	Thursday	November 30	10am - 5pm
Day 3	Friday	December 1	10am - 5pm
Day 4	Saturday	December 2	10am - 5pm



Change Service Requested

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

FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



Fall/Winter 2023-24

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Summer Book Sale of 2023 should be remembered for the Goldilocks weather. It wasn't too hot or rainy during the sale hours, but there was a slight breeze most days and it sprinkled only at night. The weather is always a major factor in whether or not the Sale is a success, and we earn enough profits to fund the needs of the Library and the programs that we all enjoy. If you drive past the library lawn as the tents go up, tables are laid over plastic sheets, boxes unloaded, and see a swarm of volunteers arranging books on the appropriate tables, you might notice that we're always looking to the skies for the rain clouds or listening for the distant roll of thunder.



This year we had a very successful sale with the help of over 100 volunteers. Most people came for one or more 3 hour shifts to replenish books on the tables, work as cashiers, or help shoppers navigate through the 6 tents. Their work is very much appreciated.

However, there are also about a dozen or more essential volunteers who spend many hours throughout the year and during the sale, sorting, checking, cleaning and packing boxes of books. Anne Milkowski is the specialist for gardening, cooking and "How-To" books. Deborah Winograd oversees books that include performing and visual Arts, music, transportation, and Americana. The vast world of children's books is sorted, cleaned and organized by Joanne Briana-Gartner and Debbie Orbach. Our media donations are meticulously checked and sorted by Helena McDonough who has spent hours inspecting CDs and DVDs and then packing them away by categories in preparation for next summer's sale.

Kevin O'Brien is our historian and will often be tempted to buy, for his personal library, rather than pack another historical tome. Overseeing the fiction and non-fiction areas of the Main Tent is Dale Green, the Sci-fi aficionado.



When it comes to the Classics, we all defer to Jack Easterling for his depth of knowledge. During our sale, he always knew where a book or author could be found. Some of our weekly box-moving crew - Ed Jackson, Steve Siegert, and George Milkowski, came every morning to remove the tarps from the tables and then cover them back at day's end as well as setting up and taking down the cashiers' tents. - *continued*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the set-up and the sale, we relied on a group of paid teenagers for the repetitive lifting, moving of boxes and recycling. Through clear directions and instructions, Tina Rood kept out teen workers focused and more productive than ever.

Luckily, we're not just reliant on the Summer Sale for funds, but also earn revenue from the 3 Book Nooks at the Main Library, East Falmouth Branch, and the Bus Depot. Pat Parker manages and keeps the Book Nooks supplied with a variety of genres. She instinctively knows what people want and is constantly replenishing the shelves at the 3 sites. Pat devotes many hours in the Book Room to sorting, checking the prices online and packing books.

Not all donated books end up at either of our Book Sales or the nooks. About 5% of donated books are sent to our online selling group started by Nancy English and updated by Carolyn Brzezinski. This "Amazon Group" which also includes Marlene O'Toole, Martha Adams and Dan O'Sullivan, sells our donations for more than the usual charges of \$1-\$5. Nancy even kept the Sea to Shining Sea website open and sold books during the bleak days of the shutdown when the Book Nooks were closed and there were no other sales.

All of this requires a legion of volunteers gleaned from membership/volunteer lists that Mary Tamucci maintains and updates. She literally "has your number." As well as maintaining the laptops and all the equipment that enable us to accept credit cards at our sale events, Mary is also able to navigate the maze of Town Hall requirements so that we can hold our Summer Sale event.

Our treasurer, Rob Gillis, is a full time bank vice-president, who still manages to volunteer at our sale events, keep our accounts, pay our bills, and manage our investments. His low-key style and creative suggestions during Board meetings frequently bring another perspective to the table.

The Friends began in 1992 with a small group of Falmouth residents. The faces have changed, but there continues to be a group of about 20 volunteers who come regularly to process the donations we receive. Most people volunteer between 4-8 hours a week throughout the year and during a sale event, many hours more. Come join us.

--Edwina Yee, President - Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

To learn more about volunteering, email friends@falmouthpubliclibrary.org

FFPL Board

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

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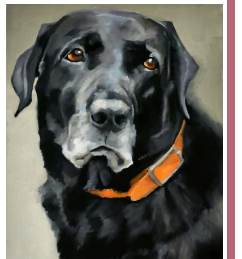
LINDA COLLINS RETIRES AS FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Linda Collins is a serious athlete, an accomplished artist, and a brilliant librarian. We were lucky to have her when she served as the Library's Assistant Director (2012-2017) and Library Director (2017-2023).

The Athlete: I checked the Falmouth Enterprise digitized collection on the Library's website for the first mention of Linda's name. The Enterprise entry of August 13, 1999 lists Linda as a runner in the Falmouth Road Race (from Foxboro). She has run 25 Falmouth Road Races. A few years later in the September 12, 2003 Enterprise she is listed as a Falmouth runner in the Main Street Mile. She has also run in several Boston Marathons, which proves she has mettle as well as medals. Linda will continue to run.

The Artist: The Enterprise of July 13, 2012 covered the Falmouth Artist Guild's Summer Juried Show with this entry, "Linda Collins took away the Best Still Life award for her oil painting, 'Cod Fish'." Linda paints mostly in oils and her favorite subjects are dogs. Her studio walls are lined with wonderful huggable portraits. Since one picture is worth a thousand words, I share this thumbnail of a portrait Linda painted of my daughter's farm dog, Miss Daisy. Linda will continue to paint.



The Librarian: The Falmouth Annual Town Report for FY2013 states that "Linda, Head of Access Services at Harvard University's Widener Library and former trustee of the Foxboro Library, stepped in to the position of Assistant Library Director", for a five year tenure. She was next appointed to the Library Director position in 2017 upon the retirement of Director Leslie Morrissey.

The Trustees held a reception for Linda prior to our September 11 Board meeting to toast to her future endeavors and to celebrate her retirement. Attendees stayed or Zoomed in or sent emails to be read during the Public Comment period, including the Trustees, Leslie Morrissey, former Trustees (Abrams, Porter, Szulkin, Zacks), Friends (Winograd, Yee, Tamucci, and Miele), Support Fund's Bob Ripley, and League of Women Voters observer, Marcia Easterling.

Comments shared via emails--From Otis Porter on Linda's becoming Assistant Director, "I was very impressed with her knowledge, intellect, and personality." From Edwina Yee, "Thank you for guiding our library through some unanticipated challenges... our library not only survived, but thrived, due in part to your direction." From Marilyn Zacks, "The quality that Linda showed throughout her tenure as director was graciousness. Her sense of thoughtful deliberation daily and sometimes under pressure meant that the library was in capable hands. Intelligence, wit, empathy and dedication were qualities that made for wonderful dynamics throughout her tenure." From Leslie Morrissey: "Creative with great ideas...I found Linda to be a great librarian, a fascinating talented colleague, and a really good friend...the word I'll use to sum up your career and our continuing friendship. Brilliant, Linda, just brilliant."

And last words from Linda in her retirement letter to Trustees: "During my leadership we met many goals: providing online access to the Falmouth Enterprise 1896-2018; designating one of the Reference Librarians as the Teen Librarian; in the Children's Room developing an area for pre-teens; at East Falmouth working with Project Bread with free lunches to children during summer vacation; outreach with the library book bike and Movies under the Stars on the Library Lawn. Going forward, library services are changing and staff must be agile and flexible enough to meet current and changing needs. There is a need to bring more Library services to East Falmouth where there is not enough room for children and adult programs. I leave CLAMS and the Falmouth Public Library in good hands and I look forward to enjoying the Library." Linda will continue to be in the Library, checking out books.

--Judy Fenwick

THANK YOU LIZ FARLAND



Liz Farland retired from the Falmouth Public Library on September 5, 2023, after 11 years of dedicated service. Liz's sense of humor was an absolute joy to be able to count on every day, as was her seemingly never-ending institutional knowledge.

Liz's library journey began on February 12, 2012. She came to the library from the Falmouth Fire Department and thought the administrative assistant role would be an opportunity to stretch herself professionally.

"I thought it would be a good challenge and something new," Farland said wistfully as she enjoyed a pomegranate green iced tea at Coffee Obsession recently.

When asked what her favorite part about the job she recently retired from was, she did not hesitate when coming up with an answer.

"I always enjoyed the staff appreciation elements of the job," Liz said with a smile.

Asked about what she looks forward to in retirement, Liz said she's excited to restore furniture, work in her garden, and train her beloved dog, Ziggy, to be a companion dog, and to spend more time with her husband John. They have plans to take a cruise to Alaska in November.

Liz is also an excellent baker, and claims she will be baking quite a bit now that she has more time on her hands, but the author of this article cannot confirm whether this is true or not because no baked goods have arrived in the administrative office so far.

Though Liz's working days are behind her, she does expect to take on a new position in 2024 – that of grandmother. Her daughter is expecting a baby on New Year's Day 2024. Liz is certain it will be a girl.

"I really miss my colleagues and visiting with the Friends on my morning walks, but I've had no problem finding things to do so far," Liz said.

Your colleagues miss you, too, Liz. Thank you for 11 great years. We wish you all the best on everything you do from here on out.

--Brian Stokes - Acting Library Director



MOVIES UNDER THE STARS



From mid-July to mid-August library patrons were treated to Movies Under the Stars - the drive-in experience without the drive to Wellfleet. This annual summer tradition, organized by the Falmouth Village Association, is held on the lawn of the Falmouth Public Library on Main Street.

Each week, movie fans flock to the library lawn for this free entertainment. Movie goers are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner. Here is what one Falmouth newcomer had to say: "Over the summer, we had an opportunity to experience a wonderful night out. Was it a new restaurant? Was it a boat ride through the canal? Did we take in a ball game? No, we sat outside at the Falmouth

library on the lawn enjoying a movie! What a great experience to have with the community as we came together to enjoy a simple movie. Now it doesn't matter what movie it is, it was the experience of being together with everyone sharing something. We brought the chairs down, plopped ourselves in an open spot and as the sun went down - on came the movie! So if you're looking for something fun, relaxing and a way to feel in touch with the community, then I highly recommend going to the movies at the Falmouth library lawn during the summer. It's a nice relaxing way to spend the evening with your fellow Falmouthites."

July 26th the Friends of Falmouth Public Library sponsored a night themed "Uncommon Friends", which included the Pixar classic "Wall-E" and the book turned movie "Because of Winn Dixie".

Thanks to FFPL for keeping this summer tradition alive and free for all.

-- Tina Rood

FALMOUTH COMMODORES TURNS 100 AND THE LIBRARY HELPS CELEBRATE



In recent years, the FFPL has sponsored purchases made for the Library of Things. Some of the unique items are the oversized games, including Connect Four, Jenga, and Checkers, along with regular size Corn Hole and Kan Jam.

In support of the Falmouth Commodores Centennial Celebration, the library provided all of these games to their July 15th Community Celebration. Families enjoyed playing games, getting player pictures and autographs, a pie eating contest, listening to live music and much more. The collaboration between the Library and the Commodores resulted in free family fun.

During the summer, the Oversized Games are also used for Library Lawn Games, where families can drop in to play. What a great way to enjoy a summer afternoon.

Check online to see what games, and other items are available to borrow from the FFPL supported Library of Things.

-- Tina Rood



VISIT A MUSEUM OR GARDEN

Visiting a local museum is a wonderful way to spend a day with family and friends. To make this experience even better the FFPL sponsors passes that provide a discount or free entry to over a dozen Massachusetts-based museums from Cape Cod to Boston. There are so many ways to use this amazing benefit to entertain yourself and visitors to the Cape.



Earlier this year I used the Heritage Museum and Gardens pass to attend the Rhododendron Festival. It provided half-price admission for up to six people. I was able to reserve the passes on the Falmouth Library website under the Services Tab. Just like a reserved book, the passes were waiting for me at the library when I went to pick them up the day before my planned adventure.

One patron reserved passes for Buttonwood Park Zoo located in New Bedford. These passes allow free entry for up to four people and she had a wonderful time with her grandchildren.

Another patron shared her experience. "When the weather wasn't cooperative, my son started to research museums to visit on rainy days. The Whaling Museum in New Bedford seemed to fit the bill, but he was surprised at the admission fees. A light bulb went on in my head — the library! A quick check revealed that the library has passes for half-price admission to this museum. A call to the front desk and a staff member was on my request right away. The same day passes were secured with my library card and were waiting for us in no time at all. I do want to note that the staff member who assisted me was extremely efficient and polite. We also secured two passes to the Gardener Museum. Again, the Falmouth Public Library comes through — the museum passes are yet another wonderful service and benefit to library patrons (and their visitors!)."

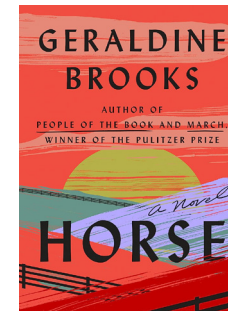
-- Tina Rood

BARNSTABLE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Brian Stokes, who joined the Library staff in September 2022 as Assistant Director, has reached out to the Barnstable County Correctional Facility to establish an outreach program. The staff at BCCF was very pleased with Brian's suggestions — he had comprehensive ideas for ways the Library could collaborate with BCCF. His proposal for a book discussion group with the inmates is based on his experience while he was working at the New York Public Library and conducted outreach to Rikers Island jail and the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. Brian's first step at BCCF has been to update and organize the collection in the jail's library, which had been closed during the Covid shutdown. Brian has talked with a few inmates, suggesting books for them to check out and taking requests for books to add to the library's collection. The inmates requested these authors: Clive Cussler, Tim Dorsey, John Grisham, Colleen Hoover (in demand from the women's side), Stephen King (The Stand, in particular), Christopher Moore, James Patterson, JK Rowling (Harry Potter books 2, 3, and 6), RA Salvatore; non-fiction by Tucker Max and books on nutrition/diet. BCCF can only accept paperbacks. Books can be dropped off at the Friends Room.

-- Mary Fran Buckley

BOOK REVIEW



Horse By Geraldine Brooks

Ms. Brooks weaves a fictional tale that begins with a discarded painting and the skeleton of a horse to encompass more than a century. Based on the true story of the 19th century's greatest racehorse, Lexington, and his enslaved trainers/handlers, Ms. Brooks connects Lexington's life in the antebellum South with twenty-first century fictional characters. Her narrative introduces us to Theo, a Black graduate student in art history at Georgetown University, moves to Jess, an expert in animal bone structure at the Smithsonian in present-day Washington, D.C., then

slides back in history to Lexington's birth in Kentucky and the enslaved boy that grew up at Lexington's side. Lexington is the thread that connects these seemingly disparate characters, introduced among real-life Southern racehorse moguls of the 1850s, and an equine painter from the same period. She delves into the popularity of horse racing in antebellum life, and the prestige of owning a champion thoroughbred among the wealthy of both the North and the South. She explains, in her Afterword, that "this industry was built on the labor and skills of Black horsemen, many of whom were, or had been, enslaved men. After Reconstruction, the racing industry became segregated and these Black horsemen were pushed aside ... As I began to research Lexington's life, it became clear to me that this novel could not merely be about a racehorse; it would also need to be about race."

This book is not recommended solely for horse lovers or racing enthusiasts; it is an extremely well-researched novel with an exciting narrative that explores a particular era in U.S. history. *Horse* brings this era to life through the compelling lives of fictional and real-life characters. Highly recommended!

--Mary Fran Buckley

The Spy Wore Red by Aline, Countess of Romanones

This memoir reads like a spy novel. But, it's the true story of Aline Griffin, who became the Countess Romanones when she married. The story begins on the eve of World War II. When she graduated college, the lovely Aline, seeking adventure, became a model. As the guest of a fellow model, Aline was seated next to the colleague's brother at a dinner party. The brother, as it turned out, was an executive in the newly formed Office of Strategic Service, today known as the CIA. Little did she know at the time, dinner conversation became a sort of job interview. Aline was subsequently recruited and sent to Spain on assignment under the code name Tiger. Her cover story was that she worked as an executive assistant at an American oil company. In reality, the top floor of the office building where she worked served as the work space for the OSS, where she worked day after day as a code breaker. Tiger's other assignment was to infiltrate Spanish society and uncover Nazi spies. Tiger met a whole host of interesting people who were involved in the war effort on both sides. The story progresses from adventure to adventure, some of them quite hair-raising. The book itself is well written, fast paced, easy to read, and quite captivating. My next read will be its sequel, *The Spy Went Dancing*, the story of how Tiger came out of retirement in the 1950's.

--Mary Tamucci

