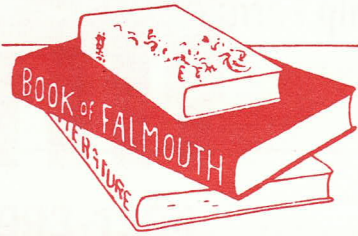


FFPL

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library



Newsletter

Early Spring 1993

Friends Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

cordially invite you to join them at the

Annual Meeting

at the

Main Library

Katharine Lee Bates Road

Saturday, April 17

at 2:30 p.m.

See inside for details

GIFTS AND SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library are important people. They are readers of all ages who know the value of books and learning in their lives, and who take more than a passing interest in the welfare of the Public Library. Although we were organized less than a year ago, we can be proud of the many things that we have accomplished. We have:

- Developed a membership of over 300 members.
- Held a very successful fundraiser four months after our first meeting.
- Purchased bestsellers for the library's first rental collection plus a cart to hold the books.
- Held a two day fall book sale which brought in close to \$3500.
- Purchased a button making machine for the children's room.
- Underwritten the cost of two museum memberships - the Kennedy Library and the Isabelle Gardner Museum.
- Contributed to the renovation of the meeting room including the carpeting for the floor.
- Voted to purchase a bulletin board for the lobby and to participate in upgrading the lobby area.
- Cooperated with the library staff in presenting an OpenHouse

for Friends members including a coffee hour and tours of the library.

- Purchased a revolving paperback rack for the Young Adult Room.
- Sold promotional materials to increase the visibility of both the library and the Friends (tote bags, t-shirts, sweatshirts).
- Published a quarterly newsletter which includes news of our various services to the library, fundraising activities, book reviews and positive information about librarians and their work.

Our advocacy and educational activities on behalf of the library throughout the year are of inestimable value to the library and the citizens of Falmouth. **Join us in our efforts.**

We need all the Friends we can get!



LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

Support Your Friends

Friends of the Library 1993 - 1994 Membership Form

Yes, Count me in!

Renewal

New Membership

Name _____

(Exactly as you wish your membership name to appear)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Membership Category:

\$5 Individual

\$100 Life Membership

\$10 Family

Other

\$50 Corporate

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

Book Sale

Newsletter

Publicity

Fundraising

Special Events

Other skills

I am unable to volunteer at this time

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will be held in the newly renovated Meeting Room 1 of the Main Library on Saturday, April 17. A brief business meeting will be held to elect the new slate of officers for 1993-1994 and to vote on two changes in the By-laws. We are fortunate to have as our speaker **Susan Baur** of North Falmouth. Ms. Baur is the author of Our Almost Wind, Hypochondria, and Dinosaur Man. She has recently offered a course in writing at the Gus Canty Center. Refreshments will be served during a social hour following the speaker. Our hospitality committee will be contacting members for donations to the refreshment table. This is a great opportunity to get together with other Friends and exchange ideas for future plans. We want to hear what you think.

This is the only notification you will have by mail of the annual meeting so please mark it on your calendar now! We want to see you there on Saturday, April 17th.

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT



Friends Finance Committee meets

Frank Perrin, Friends Vice President, met with Ann Haddad, Library Director, Nancy Serotkin, Assistant Library Director, Marilyn Zacks, Library Trustee and Mary Hunt, Treasurer of the Friends, to decide how the funds raised by the Friends should be spent. The following list of expenditures was reported to the February meeting of the Friends Board and adopted unanimously:

- \$1500 to the refurbishment of Meeting Room 1 at the Main Library
- \$200 to the North Falmouth branch
- \$200 to the East Falmouth branch
- \$900 to upgrade the Library lobby including a kiosk bulletin board
- \$1500 to be invested for a long term project.
- \$200 for a book cart for the rental collection

WANTED

**Good Used Books
Videos
Cassettes
Prints
CD's**

**Friends of the Falmouth
Public Library**

Summer Book Sale

Proceeds to benefit the library

Please **NO** textbooks,
magazines, or
Reader's Digest condensed

Book Donation Boxes are
located in Main Library, East
and North Branches

Pick ups can be arranged by
calling 564-4345



1993-1994 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the slate of offices for 1993-1994. They are:

President: Marilyn Sanborn
Vice President: Frank Perrin
Vice President: Mary Palmer
Treasurer: Mary Hunt
Secretary: Grace Fraser

Members at Large: Betty Whittaker and James Webb

As required by our by-laws, the slate is presented at least two weeks before the annual meeting, at which time the membership will vote to elect the 1993-1994 officers. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Nominating Committee Chair: Redwood Wright, members Marty Howard and Wilma Albers.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The number of members of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library as of February 1993 is

Patrons	26
Family (2)	212
Individual	98
Organizations	2
Total	338

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE THE BY-LAWS

The following is a notice of intent to change the by-laws at the Annual Meeting. A vote of two thirds of members present and voting is required to approve.

The two By-Law changes to be presented are:

Article IV: Officers and Board of Directors. Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, **standing committee chairs**, and two members at large. One library trustee, appointed by the Library Board of Trustees, and the Library Director or a designee will be non-voting members of the Board.

Article VI. Meetings. Section 2. The Board of Directors will meet at least quarterly; special meetings of the board may be called by the president. Board meetings will be open to all members. **All members of the board shall be notified in writing of the meeting. A majority of Board members shall constitute a quorum.**



A WORD TO THE MEMBERS:

To all of you who so kindly donated books to our November book sale and to all of you who worked so hard to make it a success, our very grateful thanks. In particular, we would like to recognize Ron Scaring, our Book Sale Chairman par excellence. There might not have been a book sale without Ron's untiring work collecting, categorizing and pricing the books as they came into the library during the months leading up to the sale. He was certainly the moving force which kept us all going, and we wish to thank him for all his efforts.

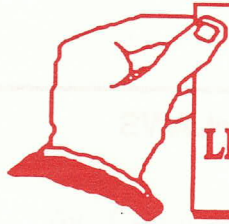
Fortunately, Ron has not given up. He may even have been spurred on to a bigger and better sale as soon as we are ready. He still can be found in the little room in the basement of the library going through the recent donations. So keep the books coming. We need your help!

FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

for period January 27- February 24, 1993



Previous Balance (January 27, 1993)	\$5990.57
Income:	
Memorial Fund:	\$10.00
Membership and donations	20.00
Book rentals	<u>73.00</u>
Total net income	\$103.00
Expenses	
Memorial Donation	50.00
Printing, posters for Brown Bag Book Reviews	24.00
P.O. Box rent	35.00
Total expenses	\$109.00
Balance as of February 24, 1993	\$5984.57
Mary Hunt, Treasurer	



FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Use of the library by the public in January ran true to course. We continue to show an increase month by month of on-site and telephone use. We averaged 790 persons a day using the Main library. About one in five check out materials: four in five are here for reference and informational needs. This trend of libraries as the community's prime source of information of all types is nationwide, especially in libraries of our size and larger. Without electronic communication it would be impossible to deliver quality reference service.

We are constantly exploring cooperative arrangements and expanded regional networking as ways to provide the public with access to collections in other libraries and to information from many sources.



It's budget time, and once again the guideline for town departments is "level funding". For the last two years, the Finance Committee has recommended a book budget which is approximately 35% less than that of three and four years ago. "Book" budget is really a misnomer, as it comprises all library materials that make up the collection - periodicals, microfilm, audio and video tapes, those expensive disc and on-line computer databases as well as children's books and materials for the branches. Our book budget was always 14% of the library budget and met the mandated state standards. Now it is 9% at a time when we are serving more people in more ways and formats. A small increase has been approved by the Town Administrator, the Selectmen and the Finance Committee. Hopefully we can continue to add a percentage to the level funded amount each year and thus recoup our loss.

We are pleased with our new Technical Services area which was formerly Meeting Room 2, and have now divided the large meeting room so that the public will continue to have two areas for group meetings.

The Technical Services staff is comprised of acquisitions, cataloging, database management and other related functions. Not only do they now have suitable work areas but general work flow is more efficient.

HELP WANTED

Attention seamstresses and carpenters! The library could use anyone who is willing to undertake recovering the cushions of the reading room chairs. This is a future project, but we would like to know if the needed skills are available. There also might be occasional small carpentry tasks to be carried out as needed. Please let us know if you would like to be put on a list for future reference. Many thanks.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

East Falmouth hosted its second annual Open House on Monday, January 4th. "Incredible Edibles" were contributed by the staff and the patrons.

Susan Croft, the aide at East Falmouth, left in January to pursue an accounting degree. Susan was a definite asset to the branch, and is greatly missed. Our best wishes go with her.

Peter Stegeman has replaced Susan as East's aide. Peter is a high school student who lives in the neighborhood. Peter has been a patron at East since his pre-school days.



The north winds do blow, we've had some snow, but the activities at the North Falmouth branch continue to go!

With thanks to the generosity of our patrons, new subscriptions to American Artist and Town and Country were made possible when existing subscriptions were adopted. Other gifts include Highlights for Children, Popular Science, Astronomy, Smithsonian and Traveler.

Young readers have no problems with winter blahs. Attendance at Friday story time has been wonderful. Don't worry about finding a place to park, there's plenty of room around back. Keep your eye on the poster in the window for the next session which will begin next April.

If any one has an hour or two to spare and would like to help out, please feel free to drop in or give us a call. It's very easy for us to find something for you to do. Thanks to the "Friends", the coffee is always on.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARIES

CHEERS FOR THE NEW YOUNG ADULT GRANT!

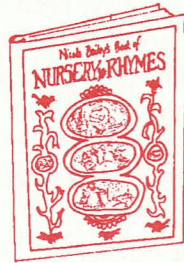
The Falmouth Public Library has been awarded a grant for \$17,000 for a Young Adult Resource Center. This project is being funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with Title I funds of the Library Services and Construction Act, a federal source of library funding. Jill Erickson and Barbara Conathan, reference librarians, wrote the grant in response to the large number of young adults who were using the library every day.

Young adults between the ages of 12 and 16 are the target population. The money from the grant will purchase current fiction to entice reading, research resources, both print and non-print, programming of interest to young adults, and updated information searching techniques such as CD-ROM to excite young adults about the worlds of technology and learning. We were delighted that the Friends were able to contribute to this project by purchasing a paperback book displayer for the Young Adult Resource Center. It is a handsome addition to the room, as well as needed shelving for new paperbacks.

42 young adults attended the first program on January 26th when Michael DiSpezio presented a workshop called Hands-On Science. The second program took place on March 9th from 1:15 to 2:30 p. m. when Bob Thomas, the owner of Forever Young, a comic book and sports card store in the Falmouth Plaza, talked about collecting comic books and sports cards.

Jill Erickson, the Project Director, would appreciate hearing from anyone who has ideas for future programs.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



The Children's Department is grateful to the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library for the carpet in our new storyhour/meeting room. Presently we have two scheduled storyhours. Thursday morning, 23 children are registered for a storyhour where a different theme is explored through books, fingerplays and songs each week. A simple craft related to the theme is completed and taken home by each child.

Adel Hollum, a volunteer, alternates with children's librarian, Phyllis Eastwood, Friday mornings, in presenting a drop-in storyhour open to all children between the ages of 3 and 5. Many new books as well as old favorites are featured during this time.

National Library Week will be celebrated with the Mini Children's Museum at the Falmouth Mall as we join the Great American Read Aloud/Night of a Thousand Stars. Special guests will be invited to read aloud from their favorite books to children and their families on Wednesday evening, April 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 P. M. in front of the Children's Museum. More than 1,000 libraries nationwide will be participating in this event on the same day. The nation's biggest pro-literacy event, the night will focus attention on:

- the pleasures of reading aloud
- the importance of parents and children reading together
- how books and libraries change lives
- libraries as leaders in promoting literacy

Join us with your families at the Falmouth Mall.

Editor's note: The plans for the celebration of National Library Week are tentative pending finalization with the Falmouth Mall manager.

OFFICIAL

HELP WANTED

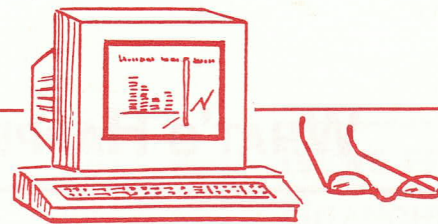
Have you seen this person?

Volunteer: Someone who likes to tidy up. The lobby, with the help of the Friends, is being upgraded, and we need someone to update the bulletin boards weekly and keep them easy for the patrons to read. Choose your own day, your own time as long as the library is open. Please call 548-7791 if you are interested

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As the library planned, the card catalog has been superceded by the computerized catalog. The card catalog which has not been updated for two years, has been moved away from the central section of the library. Needed now are volunteers to help inexperienced or reluctant computer users during peak service hours. Please call 548-1472 if you would like to volunteer. A brief training period by one of the reference librarians will then enable you to train other volunteers.

President's Corner



In a few short weeks we will be celebrating the first year of the **Friends of the Falmouth Public Library**. A look at the list on the front page convinces us that our accomplishments have been impressive. The **Book Sale** in November was a huge success, the **Rental Collection** is in the black, the **Brown Bag Book Reviews** continue to attract top notch reviewers from the community, and we are looking forward to more programs and fundraisers for the library.

Our tax exempt status has finally come through which, along with bulk mailing, will make mailing to members considerably less expensive. We are sorry that it will not be in place in time for another mailing before the Annual Meeting. Therefore, we must count on this newsletter as your only notification. Please be sure to save **April 17th** (see invitation on front page) and join us at the library to celebrate.

You will note several help wanted ads throughout this newsletter. We particularly need Friends to serve on our membership committee. Please call me at 548-7791 if you are interested in helping

Marilyn Sanborn

FALL BOOK SALE BIG SUCCESS

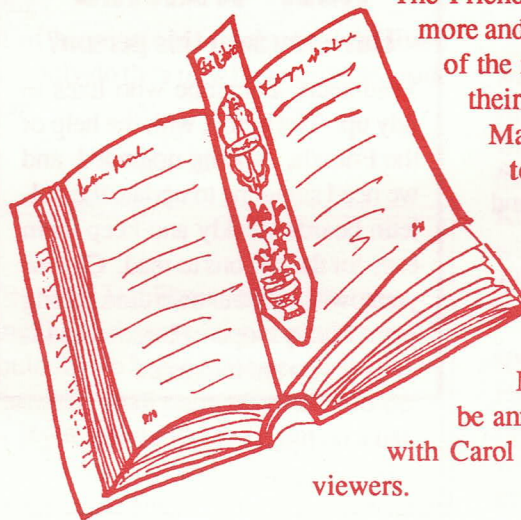
It was good to see so many Friends of the Library at our November Book Sale. We took in close to \$3500, and none of it would have been possible without the help of many members. Your time, energy and enthusiasm were the exact recipe for our auspicious fund raiser.

For those Friends of the Library who could not attend the sale, you missed the chaos and excitement which occurred as book dealers and bibliophiles rushed in the minute we opened our doors. Everyone who came to the sale found something interesting to take home. Whether a literary or do it yourself type, there was an ample choice of material from which to choose. History, romance, travel, humor, health, children's stories and more were available. Dozens of tables and boxes of books were all separated into categories for ease in choosing that perfect book to add to your home collection.

Plans are now underway for the 1993 sale. **Books are needed!** With the help of all our members we can make this year's book sale bigger and better. Now is the time for everyone to go through bookcases and storage boxes to find treasures to donate toward the sale. **Please bring them all to the donation box in the lobby of the main library.**

BROWN BAG BOOK REVIEWS *Continuing Program at the library*

With four excellent programs behind them and several more coming up, the Friends can congratulate themselves on their first project designed specifically for Friends members and the public presented at the library. From holiday books both for giving and for nourishing the spirit to outstanding travel books and books for lovers, Hope Thurlby, Friends coordinator, continues to serve up able and engaging book reviewers. The contagious enthusiasm of retired scientist John Valois and Representative Eric Turkington's apology for not keeping to February's topic (Great Lovers), were just two of the highlights of the programs which were presented to attentive audiences. Casual and informal, people munched on their sandwiches and drank coffee and tea provided by Friends members Jane Cafarella and Jean Horca. Hope's invitations to potential reviewers have been readily accepted, and much thought and time have gone into the reviews.



The Friends hope that audiences will grow as more and more people give the third Thursday of the month at noon a prominent place on their calendar. We were sorry that the March 18th program on **Women's History** with **Victoria Lowell** and **Nancy Johnson** had to be cancelled due to bad weather, but we can look forward to April 15th when **Cam Gifford** and **Margery Zinn** will be reviewing books on **Gardening**. May will be **Sports** with reviewers to be announced. June will be **Beach Books** with **Carol Chittenden** and **Jill Erickson** as reviewers.

BOOKS REVIEWS: THOSE BRIDGES AGAIN

In our summer newsletter, I very briefly reviewed a book, The Bridges of Madison County, by Robert Waller. At that time, it was just beginning to catch on through the recommendations of booksellers to their customers. Currently, it is number 1 on the bestseller's fiction list of the New York Times, and has been on the list for the past 30 weeks. Nobody is more surprised and pleased than Robert Waller. A writer, photographer and professor of management at the University of Northern Iowa, this is his first novel. He had previously spent twenty years as a bar musician, and traveled with the Bobby Kennedy train through Indiana in 1968 playing the guitar and singing the Wabash Cannonball.

Waller appeared recently on the CBS Sunday Morning show, and, in an interview with Harry Smith, explained how the book came to be written. He had been out taking real pictures of real bridges in Iowa when the idea for the book came to him. He came home, threw his gear on the floor and started writing. His wife, who was away at the time, came home to find him holed up writing twenty hours a day, day and night, and often coming to the dinner table in tears. In describing the 14 days that it took him to complete the book, Waller says it was as though "the universe gave it to me". The first publisher he sent it to read it, loved it and published it. Since then, it is history. Over a half million books have been sold nationwide. Booksellers cannot keep it on the shelves.

What is it about this book that has caused such a sensation? Mainly, it seems to be that readers identify so closely with it. They think that it really happened. Waller has had people call him from the stacks of major libraries asking

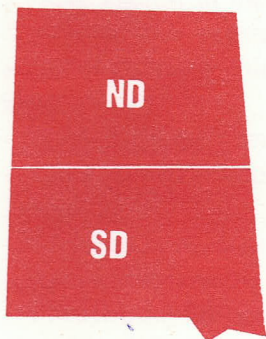


where they can find the photographs of the bridges. The National Geographic receptionist bought a copy of the book because so many people called about it. A Greenwich, CT bookseller says that it is "every middle aged man's fantasy and every middle aged woman's too". Men call Waller saying, "You've told my story". "You've changed my life". This reviewer had a reader tell her, "I felt that I had really missed something in life because I never had a love like that".

Waller did not know how it would go in Winterset, Iowa, but farmers and ministers lined up to buy the book, and one thousand copies were quickly sold. Asked if it bothered him that the critics in the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times were not kind to the book, Waller said that he had developed a tough hide as a bar musician. "If they're not throwing beer bottles at me or shouting obscenities, then it's O. K.". For him the whole thing has been "delightful, amazing, stunning, unexpected, but most of all, for a man my age, fun!"

The movie rights have been purchased by Steven Spielberg, and Hollywood is currently buzzing about who will play Robert and Francesca. My choices are Robert Redford and either Anne Archer or Mary Steenburgen. For those of you who have read the book, what do you think? For those of you have not yet read The Bridges of Madison County, you better get crackin'. Time's a wastin', and you wouldn't want to miss the love story of the century.

BOOKS REVIEWS: DAKOTA



One thing human beings appear to have built into their psyches is a longing for home, wherever that may be. It is particularly strong in those who left long ago and know that they can never go back. Indeed, an actual physical home may have disappeared, but the spiritual home lingers on to haunt us.

Kathleen Norris was fortunate. Some twenty years ago she and her

husband, both poets, left New York City, and moved to her maternal grandparent's home in Lemmon, South Dakota, returning to her geographic home and what was to become her spiritual home. Her book, Dakota, a Spiritual Geography, is her account of those twenty years and the "conversion" she experienced while rediscovering "the holy ground of my childhood summers". Writing about Dakota has been

Norris's means of understanding her inheritance and reclaiming "what was holy in it".

The region which Norris refers to as Dakota, the western part of both North and South Dakota, is not high on any tourist's list. Driving across the Great Plains can be traumatic for some people. So much open land can precipitate "a panicked desire to get through it as soon as possible". Temperatures can range from 120 in the summer to 60 below zero in the winter. If your eyebrows start to ache, you know that it is below zero. Add to that a constantly blowing wind (the Western Dakotas are the windiest region in the lower forty eight states), and one can understand why there are more cattle than people.

Lemmon, South Dakota, has a population of 600 people. Perkins County, where Lemmon is located, had 11,348 people in 1910; in 1990 it had 3,932. People, particularly the young, leave the region in large numbers, and those who remain persist in believing that the good times will return. Norris is angered by the complacency of the townspeople and bewil-

BOOKS REVIEWS: DAKOTA *(continued from pg 7)*

dered by their belief in the myth of their independence from the rest of the world. Even worse is their suspicion of outsiders, hardly unique to Lemmon, South Dakota, but evidently of a particularly virulent type. It sets up barriers that make it "difficult for us to come together and work for the things that might benefit us all".

Despite this criticism however, the book reveals a deep love for the region. Whether she is taking part in a service at her grandmother's Presbyterian church or spending time with the Benedictine monks in the desert, Norris appears to have sought and found her spiritual center. As she says about Dakota. "It's a dangerous place, this vast ocean of prairie.

Something happens to us here."

One reviewer of **Dakota** thinks that the author, a pilgrim and a sojourner, can never be as fully of the Plains as the natives because she is free to leave and they are not. It's the old story of how long must you live in a place to belong. In a place like Lemmon twenty years probably counts for nothing even if your grandmother and your mother were born there. However, one thing is certain; the people of Lemmon can be proud to say they come from a town that nourished a writer like Kathleen Norris. The book will be available at the main library within the next two weeks.



Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

P.O. Box 480

Falmouth, MA 02541