

FFPL



Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

~ Friends of the Falmouth Public Library ~

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT THEIR

ANNUAL MEETING

and

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

at the

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

68 Main Street, Falmouth

Saturday, April 23, 2005 at 1:00PM

Featuring at 1:30pm

"SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY"

by Edgar Lee Masters

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE & PERFORMED BY

Linda Gray Kelley



30 Characters Portrayed in
Free Verse Monologues
with Costumes and Props



Details Inside...

COME TO SPOON RIVER...

with Linda Gray Kelley - Saturday, April 23rd at 1:30pm

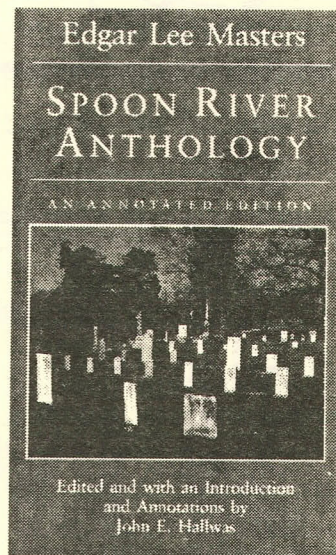
We are pleased to present Linda Gray Kelley in her adaptation of the delightful free verse anthology written in 1915 by Edgar Lee Masters, "Spoon River Anthology."

The anthology is set in Spoon River, a small, narrow-minded town in Illinois. Quoting epitaphs from the local cemetery, Masters brings the local citizens back from the dead to set the records straight on what their early 20th century lives were all about.

After you are dead and gone, can you imagine having the opportunity to talk about your family and your neighbors and the other people in your town, saying what you never had the gumption to say while you were alive?

About 30 characters will be vibrantly portrayed by Linda Gray Kelley in free verse monologues, with costumes and props. Each character will confront the gossip and the slander and the love and the sorrow that affected their lives, all the while offering their personal "take" on the other local townies.

This bit of literature, turned into theater, has been likened to the "Peyton Place" of its day. The citizens portrayed are types rather than historical portraits, which is one of the factors contributing to the universality of the appeal of this piece. Almost every emotion will be portrayed, from humor to pathos. It promises you a delightful afternoon interlude.



**WE'LL SEE YOU ON APRIL 23RD ~ REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PERFORMANCE!**

NEWS OF THE SUMMER BOOK SALE!

Now that Spring is actually here, our thoughts turn to *The Annual Summer Book Sale!* This year, the Book Sale will take place Friday, July 1st through Tuesday, July 5th. The Book Sale is the Friends' only major fundraising event and has always been enthusiastically supported by the Falmouth community and by our summer residents and visitors.

As ever, we are looking for volunteers to help for a few hours either in selling books or in helping us on set-up day, which is Thursday, June 30th. So we come to you, Dear Reader, to ask for your help in making this year's Book Sale a rousing success! Perhaps you do not have the time or are otherwise unable to serve as a volunteer, but everyone can come and buy! Buy lots of books at prices that are sure to please.

TO VOLUNTEER

Call Yang Conley 508-540-1825

Yang Conley, President of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library



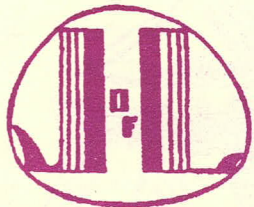
Over the years, the Friends have supported library services through yearly donations. Last year the Friends continued to fund the popular museum pass program, which allows residents access to twelve museums for a free or reduced admission. With Friends' assistance, the library is able to enhance the audio-visual collections at the main library and branches. They also support children's and adult programs and help fund public computers and printers. In February, they promoted the town-wide Falmouth Reads Program by providing the library with funds for a visit by the author, James McBride, who wrote "The Color of Water." The people who make up the Friends organization are hardworking, caring individuals, who make this library a better place. They truly live up to their name - *Friends of the Falmouth Public Library.*

Once More, The Friends Fulfill The Library's Wish List

The Staff & Trustees of the Falmouth Public Library wish to thank the Friends of the Library for their generous support of the library services for fiscal year 2006:

<i>Museum Passes</i>	\$5,000
<i>Computers</i>	\$6,475
<i>Videos & DVDs</i>	\$2,000
<i>Books On CD</i>	\$1,000
<i>Music CDs</i>	\$ 500
<i>Children's Programs</i>	\$1,500
<i>Adult Programs</i>	\$ 500
<i>East & North Branch</i>	\$1,200
<i>Table & Chairs for East</i>	\$ 900
<i>Children's AV Materials</i>	\$ 600
<i>Welcome Packets</i>	\$ 450

Total Gifts  **\$20,125**



JOY OF LEARNING

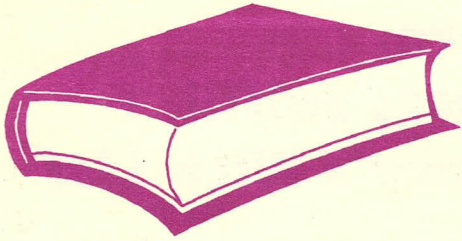
Another successful *Joy of Learning Series* has come to an end. The three classes offered were enthusiastically received and well attended despite the sometimes daunting weather conditions. This was to have been a Spring series, but as the reader knows, the weather did not cooperate. The many participants slogged through sometimes snowy, sometimes slushy, and sometimes just plain miserable weather, but their efforts were amply rewarded.

Carolyn Partan's Falmouth in the Days of Whaling entertained and educated us about the whaling industry and its impact on 19th Century Falmouth.

In his course entitled *Vision*, *Bill Adelman* enlightened and delighted us with information on how the eye works and how artists use their visual processes in creating works of art.

Dr. Susan Baur gave us the courage to undertake the challenging task of sorting through our possessions stored in attics and basements and led us toward an understanding of what these possessions represent and how this process of sorting & weeding may help us access memories and assess our lives.

We are looking forward to presenting a *Fall Series of Joy of Learning Classes*. If any of our readers are tempted to teach a class or know of someone who might be interested, please contact *Yang Conley (508) 540-1825. ALL SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME!*



BOOK REVIEW

"The Devil in the White City"

by Erik Larsen

Forget about the forgettable and confusing title. It might cause you to miss a remarkable saga of late nineteenth century American history, superbly expounded by the author. Do not fail to embrace this two-for-one tale of heroics and intrigue set in Chicago, America's "second city". It will capture attention and fascination to the very end. This I promise.

In the first of two tales, the author tells of the struggle of Chicago's successful effort to beat out New York, Washington and St. Louis to host the World's Fair of 1893, named the Columbian Exposition to mark the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery.

The rivalry between New York and Chicago continued as the Fair was designed and built. New York was smug and condescending. Chicago was prideful and cursed with an inferiority complex that remains to the present, aggravated by the fact that it is now America's "third city."

The tale continues with a description of the efforts to reconcile conflicting concepts and designs for the Fair's "White City" of the neoclassic designs, grounds, lagoons, buildings on the shores of Lake Michigan and the other "Black City" which was still recovering from the great fire and reeked from the all pervasive, noisome stock yards.

In juxtaposition to all this, is the author's second tale of the diabolic career of Doctor H.H. Holes, a sociopathic master manipulator and serial killer who has somehow managed to "stay under the radar" of the Chicago Police Force for many years as he preys on the innocence of young females. He finally meets his nemesis in the person of Mr. Frank Geyer, a Philadelphia detective who is relentless in his pursuit.

The first, more substantive tale has multiple heroes, the central one being Daniel B. Burnham, who was able to get many of America's greatest architects such as Hunt, McKim and Sullivan, to participate in the mammoth undertaking. Burnham was also able to overcome the bureaucratic problems, the late start, the weather, fire and labor unrest in order to reach his goal of beauty, vision and technology that made the Chicago Fair transcendent. The Fair stimulated the "beautiful city movement" in this country which has produced so many great American cities to rival Europe and other continents.



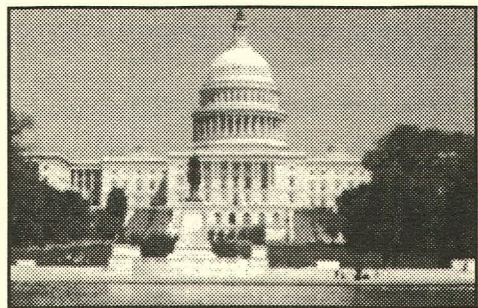
Another prominent hero was Frederick Law Olmstead, the great landscape artist, who, suffering from declining health and major depression, refused to compromise his vision of serenity, a wooded island and lagoons traversed by the silent boats, despite great pressure to yield. A third hero, David Ferris of Pittsburg, designed the Fair's symbol, the Ferris Wheel.

I could go on with many other heroes, but I will return to my original thesis -- ignore the title, read the book and be riveted throughout by the tales of this gifted researcher and author.

Review by Ned Nolan ~ Library Trustee

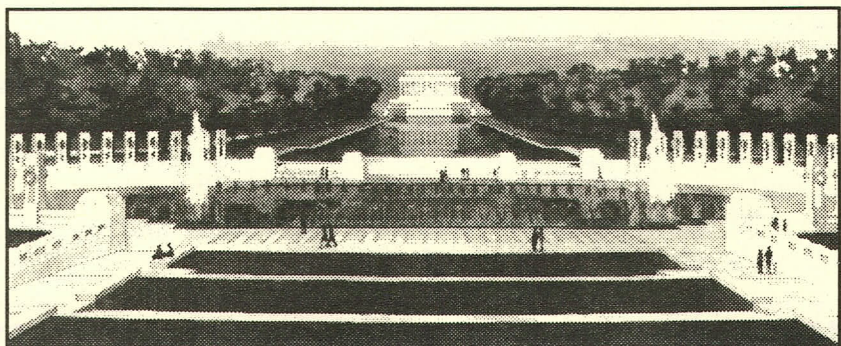
WHAT TO SEE IN D.C.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



Ever since seeing the FDR Memorial, I had watched the progress of the World War II Memorial and was anxious to see it when it was completed. It was part of the day's itinerary with my daughters on the day last December when we did whatever Mom wanted. Fortunately, they have usually enjoyed our sightseeing in Washington, D.C. over the past few years. The biggest obstacle has always been the cold weather and this year was no different.

I am a history buff and, as it is with most of my generation, the War is what stands out in our lives. I am glad that I was too young to realize how bad it really was. It never entered my mind that we would not be victorious. The biggest effect was the disappearance of all the boys in our high school class and the college years dominated by men in uniform who came in and out of our lives. Boys we knew were killed in Europe and in the South Pacific. People's lives were never the same. One would think that anyone familiar with those years would never want to see another war of any kind, but it has not worked out that way, has it?



However, they have now finally finished a memorial and it was officially dedicated on May 31, 2004. As a staff writer for the Washington Post wrote, "World War II, the cataclysmic event that altered the 20th century, certainly deserves recognition." Well, yes it does, and the National World War II Memorial as designed by Friedrich St. Florian is imposing in its location on the Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Critics have said a lot of good things and a lot of not so good things. One reporter wrote that there was "something a bit stiff" about the memorial's design and there was a "whiff of the academic" in the march of the semi-circular pillars. I know exactly what he meant. Someone decided that instead of soldiers and sailors and marines, it would be better to build a wall of 4,000 stars, each star representing 100 military deaths. The wall has none of the emotional shock felt when one sees the Vietnam Wall. There are columns and wreaths and waterfalls and pillars and pavilions, but somehow it doesn't seem to have a center. It doesn't seem to have a heart. It has little of the appeal of the FDR Memorial which is so highly personal and moving, but that may be because this Memorial to the War has taken on a big job. In wanting everyone and everything to be represented, they have made it impersonal and yes, cold although that could have also been due to the weather. I understand from what I have read that it takes time and several visits to really appreciate it. Perhaps I will go back someday in the spring or fall. Perhaps I will...

THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

If it is December in Washington D.C. you may be sure that it is bitterly cold, but my two daughters and I were determined to get in our day on the town. We welcomed the warmth of the often visited **Phillips Collection**, Washington's best loved and America's first museum of modern art. The permanent collection is outstanding with

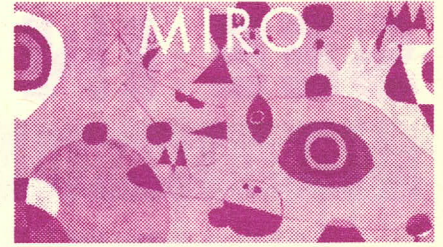
many paintings from the Impressionists including *Van Gogh*, *Monet*, *Degas* and *Cezanne* as well as American works by *Homer*, *Eakins*, *Ryder*, *O'Keefe* and *Rothko*. The pride and joy of the museum is *Renoir's* masterpiece *Luncheon of the Boating Party*.

The current show was *Calder/Miro*. Two of the giants of modern art, this show traced the work of American sculptor *Alexander Calder* (1898-1976) and Catalan painter *Joan Miro* (1893-1983) ~ *Continued Over...*

THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

...in the context of their five decade friendship. From the 1920s Paris and 1930s Spain to mid-century Manhattan in three languages, on two continents and despite World War II, *Calder* and *Miro* shared interests and profoundly influenced each other's work. More than 100 paintings, sculptures and collages were exhibited, many on view or paired for the first time. These included *Miro's* 1947 monumental mural painting and *Calder's* mobile, *Twenty Leaves and an Apple*, both commissioned for the Cincinnati Terrace Plaza Hotel.

Miro's mural painting is sensational. I had seen several of his paintings at the Maeght Foundation in France and had been fascinated with his work. I am particularly fond of his very famous painting *Carnival of Harlequin* which lives in a museum in Buffalo. Cincinnati? Buffalo? Thank goodness that museums lend their paintings so we can get to see them. I understand that this was the first time that the Cincinnati Terrace Plaza Hotel had loaned the two works together. Thank you, Cincinnati!



A segment of the mural painting for the Terrace Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati.

Hungry after our morning of culture, we headed for the restaurant which one of my daughters had chosen, and she hit the jackpot still one more time. Located very close to the Capitol, Union Station and the Metro, and adjacent to the Hotel George (lots of chrome and glass and appeared to be a good place to stay), the **BISTRO bis** serves lunch, brunch and dinner and, if the brunch menu is any example, the food is excellent. We had the Prix Fixe Brunch which includes an appetizer, entree and dessert for the fairly reasonable price of \$24.95. I wish I could go into detail about the food, but I am not here to promote any restaurant, so let's just say that we enjoyed it immensely, the ambience as well as the food.

Do you know how to pronounce Bis? I didn't, and my daughter let me know that my French leaves a lot to be desired. If I recall, you do not pronounce the "s."
~ Marilyn Sanborn

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES - Various Unscholarly Reviews

BEING JULIA

Annette Benning was nominated for best actress this year, but for the second time, the Oscar went to Hilary Swank. Next time, it might be smart for Annette to avoid making a movie in the same year as Swank. Years ago, Benning would have been called a classy dame or even a classy broad. Today everyone has to be hot and she is not, unless you remember her in *The Grifters* with John Cusack. The nude scene is arty rather than sexy, but it's a classic. Her husband, Warren Beatty, saw something that he had not seen in any of the many actresses with whom he had had highly visible affairs. She walked off with Hollywood's most eligible bachelor and now she has a house filled with children and is still making movies. In *Being Julia*, she plays the part of a famous stage actress in the twenties, sort of a cross between Talullah Bankhead and Bette Davis in *All About Eve*. It is fun to watch

her seduce a younger man, but not much fun when he finds someone younger. I think she ended up having the last laugh, but I saw it so long ago I've forgotten. On a scale of one to ten, I would give it a seven.

MILLION DOLLAR BABY

As a great admirer of the legendary Clint Eastwood, I expected a great movie even before half the world had told me what a beautiful movie it is. Clint directs and stars as he has done in other movies. He also produced it and wrote the music. Who would have thought that the macho cowboy would turn into a Renaissance man? Other directors must hate how easily he turns his movies into mega hits. It is rumored that actors pay him to get a part in one of his movies. However, I am sure that Clint paid a bundle to get Morgan Freeman. Has that man ever played a bad role? No actor had a chance against him for the

best supporting actor. As I said, I had heard nothing but praise for *Million Dollar Baby*. People had been surprisingly good about keeping the ending a secret. For my part, I went into the theater without a clue, but from the time Swank's head hit the floor with a loud crack accompanied by appropriate music, I sat stunned and appalled. The intensity and tension of that last half hour was not something I would care to repeat. What happened to Clint in the last frames of the movie? I have heard that he walked off in search of the soul which he had lost. Less poetic was another reaction, "Well, he was a murderer, and of course he was caught and put in jail." I imagine that Clint would accept either one of those interpretations.

I was going to include Hotel Rwanda and Sideways, both of which I liked, but I don't have any more room and I am sure you are tired of my amateur critiques if you have even read this far.
~ Marilyn Sanborn

Report from the Library Board of Trustees

This has been a busy time for the Board of Library Trustees. After careful search, *Leslie Morrissey* joined us as **Library Director** on January 10th. We are confident she will ably continue the work of former director, Nancy Serotkin. During the interim period between directors, our **Assistant Director, Lynne Mulvey**, performed capably as Acting Director and our staff fully maintained services to the public. We thank them all for their loyalty and special efforts during this time.

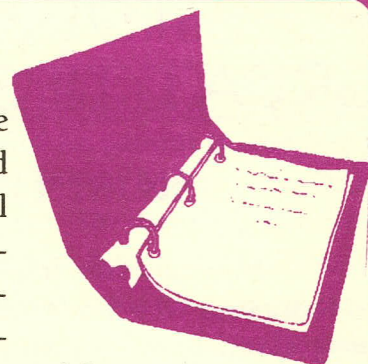
During this period, we are moving ahead with preparations for applying for a state grant for a Main Library renovation. Winning this grant will mean that approximately one third of the major renovation costs would be reimbursed through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBCL). The grant application is a thick document and is a complete analysis of the Main Library's needs for the next twenty

years. A sub-committee of the trustees worked with the architectural firm of Beacon Associates, library staff, the Veterans, the town administration and the building and finance committees.

As you can tell, it will be some time before any major renovation can be started. When completed, this renovation will provide a state of the art facility which will be highly functional and comfortable. Furnishings will not be covered by grant money and the trustees plan to launch a fund raising effort to raise money from private and we hope, generous donors for this purpose.

As one of your library trustees, I feel honored to participate in this exciting new project, in part, because I keep learning more every day about the wonderful people of Falmouth and their appreciation of the Library.

~ Kathleen Murray, Trustee



BOOK REVIEW

"Posterns of Fate"

by Agatha Christie

I have read many books this long and snowy winter. I read mysteries to relax-not violent, bloodthirsty, surreal (at least to me) situations. I love "who dunits." My favorites are the British writers like Ruth Rendell, Anne Perry, Agatha Christie, etc., where good triumphs over evil. I did not find one I enjoyed enough to write about until I found an old Agatha Christie book at a yard sale. *Posterns of Fate* was the name of it. "Postern" refers to a back door private entrance or gate. The story revolves around a charming old Victorian house with unsolved secrets.

Tuppence and Tommy Beresford are the engaging detective duo in this chilling adventure, along with their dog Hannibal. The Beresfords retired to this lovely old home expecting to live a quiet life where they could putter in the garden and house to their heart's content. Not so. This house had a mysterious past which resulted in the death of a woman named Mary Jordan (was she a German spy?) and a young man named Alexander Parkinson. Mary was hired to be Alexander's nanny.

~ Review continued on back page

THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT GREAT TIPS on Health, Weight Loss & Exercise

FROM THE VERY TOP 2004 REFERENCE BOOKS

OK, we all know it has been a very long winter with lots of snow and lots of ice and lots of opportunities to break your New Year's resolutions. (Remember those? Wasn't that a piece of left over Easter egg you just ate?) Consider this the perfect time, before you have to slip into that swimming suit, to visit some reference sites and books that can help us with our already forgotten resolutions to lose weight this year. It also gives me the perfect opportunity to rave about my favorite set of 2004 encyclopedic reference books.

That set is *The Medical Library Association Encyclopedia Guide to Searching and Finding Health Information on the Web* edited by P.F. Anderson and Nancy J. Allee. So what does this set do? EVERYTHING! As they describe it in their preface, this set "has been designed to help all individual consumers searching for personal information get the best possible answers available." In addition, it is designed to help librarians, "do an efficient, comprehensive job of an increasingly overwhelming task."

Volume I is titled *Search Strategies/Quick Reference Guide*, and the first part of the volume is dedicated to explaining the essential background of effective searching of health information on the Internet. "Search Strategies" covers every aspect in theory and in practice. Volume II, *Diseases and Disorders/Mental Health and Mental Disorders*, examines specific diseases, illnesses and conditions. Volume III, *Health and Wellness/Life Stages and Reproduction*, shows "how to use a strategic approach in a comprehensive series of real-life health situations."

So how are these great volumes going to help you with your weight loss resolution? There is in fact a whole section on diet and nutrition. They offer recommended search terms such as "diet nutrition", "dietary guidelines", "healthy diet" and "healthy weight". This is followed by a list of important sites from *The American Academy of Family Physicians to the University of California, Berkeley: Wellness Letter: 14 Keys to a Healthy Diet*. A list of hotlines is also included, such as the *Weight Control Information Network (1-877-946-4627)*. You'll also find a list of FAQs, including the *Calorie Control Council (www.caloriecontrol.com/faqs.html)*. You learn that professional organizations include the *American Dietetic Association (www.eatright.org)* and *The International and American Associations of Clinical Nutritionists (www.iaacn.org)*. Once you're done with the diet and nutrition information, you can go on to the exercise, fitness and physical activity section! Don't you feel lighter already?

The depth of this set is amazing, and my only complaint is that for some unknown reason, they put the page numbers directly opposite of where you find most page numbers. As a result, it is annoying to look at the hinge of the book for the page number. Can't afford the books (a whopping \$395.00 for the set)? Well, there is still a great deal of information to be found on *MLANET (www.mlanet.org)*, the web page of the *Medical Library Association*. You'll find the MLA top ten useful web sites, a deciphering med speak list, medical shorthand that your doctor might use, and some basics on diagnosing a healthy website. It can also lead you to the *American Public Health Association (www.apha.org/nphw/05-letter.htm)*, where you can learn more about *National Public Health Week*. *The Consumer and Patient Health Information Section (CAPHIS) (caphis.mlanet.org)* of MLA evaluates web sites based on the following criteria: credibility, sponsorship/authorship, content, audience, currency, disclosure, purpose, links, design, interactivity and disclaimers. Don't miss the "CAPHIS Top 100 Web Sites You Can Trust."

If you ate one too many jellybeans, you might want to visit win.niddk.nih.gov/publications/choosing.htm for help choosing the perfect weight-loss program.

By Jill Erickson ~ Head of Reference, Falmouth Public Library

Meet **Leslie Morrissey**, the New Library Director

Leslie has only been on the job for three months, but already she appears completely comfortable in her office at the Falmouth Public Library. Blonde and attractive, it is a stretch to think of her as a grandmother, but the proof is a picture of another blonde, her five-year old granddaughter. Her husband, also featured among the family pictures, is the principal of the Peebles Elementary School in Bourne. She has two grown daughters working in the Boston area, and she admits to being a bit partial to girls, although she loves to watch all the children in the Children's Department downstairs in the library.

If there is one great interest running through her life, it is the library. She volunteered in the library during high school, worked in the library during college and managed to organize the library while teaching English and History. Her first professional job was at the Jonathan Bourne Library where she ran a Homebound program under a grant. It was this experience that sparked her interest in the handicapped and how they might be served by the library. She is a great fan of audio books and often uses them in her car.

In 1989, she began working on her Master of Library Science at Simmons College in Boston, and was hired to be the Director of the Holmes Public Library in Halifax while still in school. By this time, she knew that her interest lay in public libraries, not in the special areas of law, medicine, academics or even in public schools. She did say that she thinks "it might be interesting to be the administrator of a group of libraries."

Books, she believes, are what the library is all about, and she stretches out her arms to include the whole environment. However, any library that refused to recognize other media in this day and age would have gone under for sure. All of the various media are important. Videos and now DVDs are an art form in themselves. If the story of the public library is all about service to its users, then all forms of communication should be offered. One exception would be pornography, and this is a problem that librarians have to sort

out. The Falmouth Public Library has an "Acceptable Use" policy which is posted for patrons to read.

Leslie's experience with the Friends of the Public Library is long and varied. She was very active during her time at the Jonathan Bourne Public Library which was engaged in raising funds for a new library. Enter the Friends and all kinds of fund raisers became common place. The most intriguing was the Annual Fair. The Friends, along with their husbands, built an entire fair including booths and whatever else was needed. Ultimately, an annual Carnival bought out the Friends fair date and donated a percent of the Carnival's profits to the Friends, at one time \$15,000. Leslie said that "The Jonathan Bourne Library relied heavily on the support of the Friends of the Library and they were very instrumental in getting the library built, both through their fund raising efforts and marketing skills."

With her background it is no surprise that when asked what she liked best about libraries she said, with little hesitation, "the kids, the people, the excitement, the opportunity to be innovative and creative. Overall, it is liberating!" She also mentioned the importance of community service. She believes that the whole idea of service is very prominent at the Falmouth Public Library and in the town of Falmouth. Falmouth is a library town and the library deservedly has a fine reputation on the Cape and throughout southeastern Massachusetts.

It becomes clear in talking with the new director, that she is experienced in mediating if any kind of crises, large or small, should occur. She does not seem to be anticipating any problems as long as she has such a wonderful staff. She cannot stop praising them and considers herself most fortunate. The Friends and the Trustees are important, but it is the Staff, she says, upon whom you depend day to day to make things run smoothly.

This is a woman who loves her job. Just ask her and she will tell you!

~ Marilyn Sanborn, Newsletter Editor

...CONTINUED "Posterns of Fate"

Browsing through some old children's books in their new library, Tuppence found a coded message left by Alexander which Tuppence was able to decipher. The message read: "Mary Jordan did not die naturally. It was one of us. I think I know which one." Not one to let things be, Tuppence convinced Tommy that this mystery needed to be solved. The way they dug up information that happened long ago was interesting and thought-provoking. Tuppence's life was in danger because of her prying into the unfinished business of the past. Hannibal, the dog, was Tuppence's life saver and the mystery was solved. The twists and turns of this book and the conversations between Tommy and Tuppence were fun. I enjoyed this book! ~ *Review by Anne Toran*

2005 - 2006

SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

Annual Meeting ~ April 23, 2005

FRIENDS OF THE FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

OFFICE

NOMINATED OFFICER

President	Ethel Conley
First Vice President	Cliff Duckworth
Second Vice President	Anne Toran
Treasurer	Jean Hewitt
Member At Large	Leonard Miele
Member At Large	Marilyn Sanborn

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SUMMER BOOK SALE
Friday, July 1st
through
Tuesday, July 5th