

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

Newsletter

Spring 1994

Friends Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library cordially invite you to join them at their

Annual Meeting

at the

Main Library

Katherine Lee Bates Road

Saturday, April 16

at 2:30 P. M.

See page 2 for details

Banner Year for the Friends

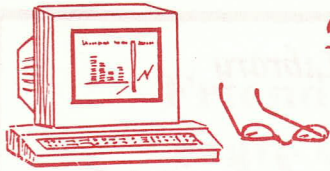
With the proceeds from two successful book sales, one on the library lawn on July 7 and one in the main library on November 5 and 6, the Friends were able to purchase many new items on the library's wish list. Top priority was given to new chairs for the reading room at the main library, and Barbara Conathan, Assistant Library Director, has done a wonderful job with the selections. There are fourteen sled-based chairs with oak frames and navy upholstery and five "lounge" chairs with oak cap and base (1 navy, 4 claret). They all complement the new rug which the library has purchased, and the overall effect is very attractive. Please do stop by to admire the new acquisitions, and pat yourself on the back as a member of the Friends. It is your membership dues and your help at the book sales and other fund raisers that allowed us to make such an impressive contribution to the library.

In a previous allotment, we had purchased \$600 worth of videos and books on tape, and recently we have added another \$400 to that total for additional videos which include A Year in Provence, Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn and several dramas based on literature. The videos and books on tape will sport a red and white label marking them as gifts of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library.

We will also be giving about \$600 to the children's department which Phyllis Eastwood, the children's librarian, plans to spend on puzzles, puppets, literature based videos, a table for story hour crafts and multi-cultural displays. The Friends also gave \$300 to each of the branches. For more details, please look under What's Happening at the Libraries on page 5.



"Cycling Through Russia"
Slide show and lecture on Saturday May 7 at 2:00. See page 3



President's Corner

Here we are at another anniversary! On April 16, we will be celebrating our second annual meeting. Looking back, we raised a good sum of money for the library during our first year, while spending a considerable amount of time in ironing out the kinks. During our second year we have consolidated our gains, and I think that we are justified in calling 1993 a banner year. Ron Scaring's two book sales, one in July and another in August, were very successful. Volunteers from the Friends pitched in and helped Ron raise several thousand dollars, and had a good time doing it. The Robin Lane program on Isabella Gardner was another big success for which we can thank Frank Perrin who planned it so well.

The Friends had several membership meetings, all dealing with books at least indirectly. In October a large crowd turned out for Friend Marilyn Zacks's program on book clubs, and a very dedicated group made up the audience for the Cape Cod author Robert Fisk in November. Early in December a small but appreciative group heard three bookstore people review many wonderful selections for holiday giving.

New programs will begin again in May when the Friends are fortunate to have Peter Freisem who will present a slide show and lecture on his experiences while cycling through an area of Russia known as The Golden Ring. Plans are being made for more programs and the Friends would love to have some input from the membership on what they would like. Please tell us your thoughts at the Annual Meeting on April 16 or call me at 548-7791.

As president of the Friends, the most gratifying aspect of the second year was the day I walked into the library and saw all the wonderful new chairs in the reading room of the main library. The chairs are the first, large concrete items that we have donated to the library, and we know that all the patrons will benefit from this gift. We were pleased to receive the thanks from the library staff and even some patrons, one of whom was heard to ask, "Who are the Friends?" That's easy. The Friends are people who love the library and support all of its activities and programs. If you would like to help in some way, please call Wilma Albers at 540-0978. We still need help with membership and programming, and would welcome hearing from you.

M. Sanborn

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will be held in Meeting Room 1 of the Main Library on Saturday, April 16 at 2:30 P. M. First on the agenda will be the election of a new slate of officers and a vote to make one change in the by-laws.

"From Gutenberg to Who Knows What?- Observations on the Making of Books" will be the topic of the Friends' second annual program in honor of National Library Week. The speaker, Warren Gray Freeman, is involved in the world of printing and publishing. Since his first job at the age of 13 at the Round Printing Company in Buzzards Bay, Mr. Freeman has served variously as an author, editor, typesetter, printer, proofreader, indexer and seller of books. At present, Mr. Freeman is a free-lance proofreader and editor. Much of his time is spent proofreading college text books published by Houghton Mifflin.

Refreshments will be served during a social hour following the program. The Friends will be in touch with members for contributions. Please join us to hear about all the things the Friends are doing for the library, and to give us your ideas for future projects.

1994-1995 Slate of Officers



The nominating committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers for 1994-1995. They are:

President	Marilyn Sanborn (3rd year)
Vice President, finance	Frank Perrin (3rd year)
Vice President, program	Mary Palmer (2nd year)
Treasurer	Beverly Noelte (1st year)
Secretary	Grace Fraser (2nd year)
Members at large	Wilma Albers Phyllis Fitzgerald

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 1994-1995 officers. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

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

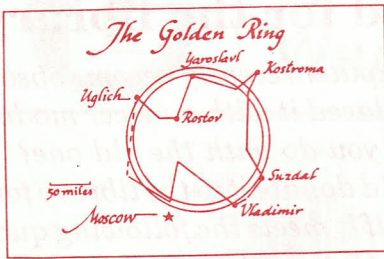


NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE THE BY-LAWS

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 By-law change to be presented is:

Article IV, Section 2, first sentence—ADD, after "...standing committee chairs," the words **"immediate past president,"** so that the sentence reads "The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, standing committee chairs, **immediate past president** and two members-at-large.



HERE COME THE RUSSIANS

Keeping up with the changes taking place in the former Soviet Union can be a full time job. Many states of the Union are now independent countries. Major cities may be changing their names still another time. Gorbachev has given way to Yeltsin, and there is talk that Yeltsin's days are numbered. The chances for reform now appear remote, and many of the old faces are back in power.

However, some areas have been relatively untouched by the historic events of the past few years. Join us on Saturday, May 4 at 2:00 P.M., when the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will present Peter Freisem and his unique slide show and lecture entitled *Cycling Russia's Golden Ring*.

The Golden Ring is a series of medieval cities northeast of Moscow noted for its architecture, particularly the churches, and is dearly loved by Russian citizens. With his brother and Russian native sister-in-law, Freisem rode his bicycle on a 625 mile trip through these age old villages at the same time as the attempted military coup in Moscow in August of 1991.

The program is an excellent introduction to the life, culture and history of the former Soviet Union. As each of the historic towns of the Golden Ring lie conveniently a day's cycling apart, the trio had ample time to explore the scenic villages and to meet Russian people. Many had never seen an American before and none had seen 21 speed mountain bikes with drop handlebars and slick tires. One of Freisem's best recollections of the trip was an invitation to stay in a Russian family's apartment located on the village square in the town of Teikovo when there proved to be no room for cyclists at the town's only hotel.

Since his trip to Russia, Freisem keeps abreast of events in the former Soviet republics through extensive reading of books and periodicals, conversations with his sister-in-law and relevant news broadcasts. A sampling of his extensive Selected Reading List includes:

Bechloss, Michael R. and Strobe, Talbott, *At the Highest Levels: The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War* (available through CLAMS at the Main Library).

Pozner, Vladimir, *Eyewitness: A Personal Account of the Unraveling of the Soviet Union* (Main Library)

Shipler, David K., *Russia: Broken Idols, Solemn Dreams*. (Main Library).

Remnick, David, *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*. (Available through CLAMS at the Main Library). **SEE THE BOOK REVIEW BEGINNING ON THIS PAGE.**

Remnick, David, *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*

Are you as confused as most of us about what has been happening in the former Soviet Union? Would you like someone to make it crystal clear and entertaining at the same time? If your answer is yes, then *Lenin's Tomb* should be high up on your reading list.

In 1988, two months after the history making speech in which Gorbachev began undermining the Stalinist system of coercion and empire, the prize winning journalist, David Remnick, arrived in Moscow as a correspondent for the Washington Post.

Although Gorbachev's speech disappointed many historians in the West, Remnick believes that it "opened the gate and the lion of history came roaring in." It is the return of history to the Soviet Union which becomes the theme of *Lenin's Tomb* as well as the force which propels both the leaders of the revolution and many ordinary citizens toward the toppling of the Soviet system.

Remnick's extensive use of anecdotes and unforgettable portraits of leaders such as Gorbachev, Sakharov and Yeltsin reminded this reviewer of David McCulloch's superb biography of Truman. Both writers belong to the small select group of historians who keep readers up at night turning the pages even when the outcome is well known.

The inability of most of the Russian leaders to see the gap between themselves and the people was a tragic flaw. As Remnick traveled around the Union and talked with miners, steelworkers, farmers, journalists, priests, he continually heard the same theme. The Old Regime was dead. The only disagreement involved when and where it died.

In a striking analogy, a physician from Ukraine tells Remnick that, "Chernobyl was not *like* the Communist system. They are one and the same. The system ate into our bones the same way radiation did, and the powers that be- or the powers that were- did everything they could to cover it all up, to wish it all away."

(continued on page 6)



**Could this be you
at the next Friends' Book Sale?
Rare book discovered at
November Book Sale**

Many hundreds of people had an opportunity to buy a rare book at the Friends' November, 1993 Book Sale. A copy in French of **Le Contes Drolatiques** by Honoré de Balzac with illustrations by Dubout sold for \$5.00 on the second day of the book sale. The Falmouth resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, realized after looking it over closely that this unusual publication was valuable. Upon contacting the Library of Congress, this person learned that the book was one of only two copies known to exist in the entire world. The only other copy was in the collection of the Library of Congress. Rather than profit from this unique find, this Falmouth resident, in the highest spirit of a true bibliophile, donated the copy to the collection at the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

Wanted for the library

Has your computer recently become obsolete? Have you replaced it with a newer model? If so, what did you do with the old one? Perhaps you could donate it to the library for use by the public if it meets the following qualifications: IBM Compatible - 286 or better - in good working order.

Contact Barbara Conathan at the main library (457-2555)



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Peg Kronenberg for the lovely sketches of Russia which she did while travelling in the Soviet Union. The sketch of the Golden Ring is also Peg's as well as the chairs, puppets, and children's videos. Her artwork adds a very special touch to the Friends' newsletter.

Storage area needed

The Friends need help from someone who can share some storage space for boxes of books to be used in our 1994 book sales. The storage area must be dry, secure, and easily accessible. If anyone can help, please contact **Ron Scaring** at 564-4345.



Treasurer's Report

Because our account is in a state of flux at present due to the large amount of our funds that we are spending on the library, this report will be unofficial and in round numbers only. We currently have an operating balance of about \$11,000 with the following bills outstanding - \$5000 for the chairs in the reading room of the main library, \$1,000 for videos and talking book tapes, \$600 to the branches, \$600 to the Children's Department of the main library, and \$225 for a User's Guide to the Library. This leaves us with about \$3500 to cover expenses for programming, the newsletter, individual mailings, etc. An official treasurer's report will be available for your inspection at the annual meeting on Saturday, April 16 at the main library.

**LOVE YOUR
LIBRARY**

**SUPPORT
YOUR
FRIENDS**



Membership Update

The number of members of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library as of March 1994 is

Patrons	37
Family (2)	306
Individual	111
Total	454

WANTED

**GOOD USED BOOKS
VIDEOS
CASSETTES
PRINTS
CD'S**

**Friends of the Falmouth
Public Library**

**Proceeds to benefit the
library**

**PLEASE NO TEXTBOOKS,
MAGAZINES, READER'S
DIGEST CONDENSED**

**BOOK DONATION BOXES
ARE LOCATED IN THE
MAIN LIBRARY, EAST
AND NORTH BRANCHES**

**PICK UPS CAN BE
ARRANGED BY CALLING
564-4345**



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARIES



East

In the spring of 1993, the Friends donated \$200 to each of the branches, and the East Falmouth Branch put this money in reserve to put toward air conditioning. Subsequently, air conditioning was approved at the Fall Town Meeting. Barbara Wilson, East's librarian, will now put the reserved \$200 with the \$300 which the Friends have recently given them for a total of \$500. The money will be spent for:

- A 3-year subscription to the Abridged Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature (\$150/year).
- A 1-year subscription to Ranger Rick (\$15).
- A 1-year subscription to Outdoor Life (\$14).
- A 1-year subscription to Sierra (\$15).

East plans to put giftplates on the magazine binders to let patrons know that the subscriptions are a gift from the Friends. They wish to thank the Friends for their generosity and continued support of the East Falmouth Branch.



Main

Children's Department

Trolls, moose, mittens, and valentines have been seen in abundance as a result of the winter story hours. On Monday and Wednesday mornings at the Main Library and on Friday afternoons at the North Branch, almost 60 school children are registered for story hours that are planned around a theme and include a craft. Another "drop in" story hour on Tuesdays at 3:30 P. M. has been added and Adele Hollum welcomes children on Friday mornings at 10:00 for reading aloud. Picture books and beginning readers are now organized on the shelves by author. As schools are emphasizing author studies, and many people have favorite authors, the new arrangement makes finding books much easier.

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library have recently given \$600 to the Children's Department, and Phyllis Eastwood, Children's Librarian, plans to spend it for puzzles, puppets, literature based videos, a table for story hour crafts and multi-cultural displays. Videos will include many of the classic children's titles - The Nutshell Kids, Madeline's Rescue, Danny the Dinosaur and Strega Nona.

Friends' carpenter, Bob Warren, is about to begin work on a table to hold the puppet theater which he completed some time ago. Bob is kept so busy with projects for the library that the Friends could easily find work for a second carpenter if there is someone out there who would like to help. Many commercial products are very expensive, but could be made by a craftsman for a good deal less money. The Friends, of course, supply the materials.

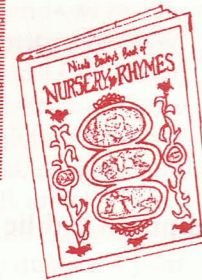


North

The North Branch of the library recently received \$300 from the Friends and Laurie McNee, North Branch librarian, wrote the following letter:

Dear Friends of the Library,
Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the North Falmouth Branch. We will use these funds to purchase materials, books and books on tape for the children's collection. These materials are marvelous extras for our patrons to enjoy.

The Library Staff says:



Friends invited to State Conference

The Massachusetts Friends of Libraries, in coordination with the Massachusetts Library Association, will hold its annual conference and business meeting at the Tara Hyannis Hotel on April 24, 1994. The executive Board of MFOL cordially extends an invitation to members of Friends' groups on the Cape to attend the first conference on the Cape and to be special hosts at the reception that will end the day's activities.

The day will include a business meeting, lunch, informative workshops on fund-raising and programming and the reception. We have two or three FFPL board members who have agreed to attend, and we would like to have several more. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Sanborn at 548-7791. The conference will be a good opportunity to meet and talk with other Friends' groups from all over the state.

Remember the Remembrance Fund

What a great way to commemorate an occasion in your family! Give a contribution either in honor of or in memory of a person or an event (a birthday, an anniversary, a barmitzvah or whatever), and the Friends will see to it that your gift is acknowledged and an appropriate thank you note sent. Who among your friends or your family are or have been big users of the library?

Remember them with a gift to the Friends. Flyers are in the library for your convenience or simply send a check to the FFPL at Box 480, Falmouth, MA and tell us what you would like us to do.

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

P.O. Box 480

Falmouth, MA 02541

Lenin's Tomb - continued from page 3

The author's description of the great leader Sakharov's funeral is perhaps the most poignant part of the book. Sakharov, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1975, had spent a good part of his life, some of it in exile, trying to point out the truth to the Soviet leaders, largely to no avail. At his funeral in 1989, no fewer than fifty thousand people came to say farewell, and for Remnick "it was the first time that I got any sense that there could be a unified democratic movement in the Soviet Union."

It is ultimately a sad book because in retrospect we know that the high hopes here in the West for Yeltsin and reform have not been realized yet. When the Russian earthquake was over, one of Yeltsin's aides visited the commandant of the Communist Party's Central Committee and asked for a copy of its old phone book. The Yeltsin government needed experienced bureaucrats, and they had to hire people from the old structure. Yeltsin's supporters - the people who came to rallies and demonstrations "didn't know anything about how to run a country." How then, we might ask ourselves, can there be sweeping changes if the same people are sitting in the offices as before the coup which brought Yeltsin to power?

M. Sanborn

BULK RATE
POSTAGE

PAID

Permit #63
Falmouth, MA