

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Norton Public Library

April 2011 Volume 9 Issue 1

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

This year spring is the time of change. After a very long winter, we have filled several positions in the Friends that were open. We would like to welcome Ann-Marie Kirshon as our membership coordinator. Jill Mathieu will be taking over the Secretary position. Sharon Rice took over the position of Vice President last fall and will now also chair the Book Sales. Joanne Hadley an active Friend member, will be coordinator for the Spring Flower & Bake Sale. We still have an opening for anyone interested in taking over the Fall Flea Market in September. Thanks to all of these wonderful people for stepping in and giving their time to the Friends!

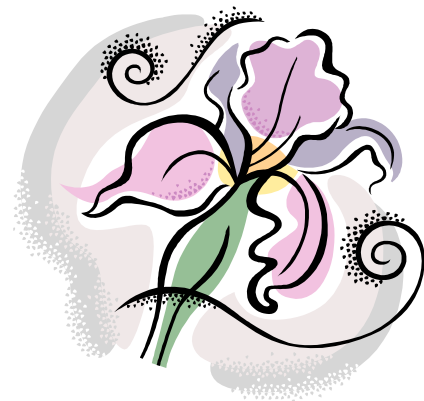
Our Head of Library Elaine Jackson will be retiring on June 30. I honestly can not think of the Norton Library without her. She has poured her heart and soul into her work and we greatly miss her smile and laughter. The Friends wish her all the best.

We will again be raffling off various baskets. They are on display now at the library. Tickets are \$2 each or 3/\$5. Stop in the Library and check them out! Thanks to all who donated items.

Look inside for info on our Spring Book Sale with extended hours! The sale will now run a full week. Stop in and get your summer reading!

As always, thank you for all of your support. We can't do it without you!

Sincerely,
Kristen Miller



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Elaine, soon you will be wearing a "new hat". The Friends wish you a Happy Retirement!

Plant and Bake Sale

The Spring Plant and Bake sale is Thursday, April 21, from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm. We will have many beautiful spring flowers such as tulips, lilies, mums, gerbera daisies, African violets and hyacinths. We will need baked goods to be donated - cookies, cakes, breads cupcakes etc. Baked goods can be dropped off at the library the morning of the sale. All proceeds from the sale go to the Friends. Thank you for your support.

Spring Book Sale

The Friends are gearing up for the May book sale. We are accepting any gently used books through the end of April.

The dates for the upcoming sale will be as follows:

Tuesday, May 3rd
4 - 8 pm Friends Night Only

Wednesday, May 4th
10am - 7pm

Thursday, May 5th
10am - 7pm

Friday, May 6th
10am - 5pm

Saturday, May 7th
9am - 3pm

Monday, May 9th
10am – 6pm, Fill a Bag for \$2

Please note the extended sale days.

As always, 100% of the proceeds supports the wide variety of programs the Norton Library offers.

Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Adult Programs:

April 11 at 2:00 pm – “History of Barrowsville” by Jan Burkhart and the Norton Historical Society.

April 12 at 6:00 pm – “First Ladies of the Civil War,” a lecture by Gary Hylander, PhD.

April 28 at 6:30 pm – “Is there Value in Your Old and Rare Books?” by Ken Gloss from the Brattle Book Store.

Sunday, May 1- Display by Civil War Enthusiasts – stop by to chat and to view their collections

May 16 at 2:00 pm – “History of East Norton” by George Yelle and the Norton Historical Society.

Flash Drives on Sale

The Friends still have 2G flash drives available \$20. Now \$10. Inquire at front desk



Special Thanks to:

- All who attended our February Chateau fundraiser. We raised \$745! Thank you Chateau!!
- Rachel Phillips for all of her continuous work sorting books!
- All the Friends who sort our books throughout the year.
- The ‘Knot Just Knitting’ group who are donating an afghan they have created for a future Friends raffle. Keep your eye out at the library for a chance to win this wonderful prize!

Just to clarify if you receive emails from the Friends. There are two different email databases. One is within the Sails network if you have signed up as a library patron. One is within the Friends database. Please note there may be changes to the email address of the friends as the new membership coordinator takes over the emails for the Friends.

Friends of the Norton Public Library
 68 East Main St
 Norton, MA 02766
 Phone: 508-285-0265
 Web: www.nortonlibrary.org
 email:FriendsOfNortonPublicLibrary@gmail.com

Good libraries need good Friends!

Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Kristen Miller
 Vice President: Sharon Rice
 Secretary: Jill Mathieu
 Treasurer: Joan Casper
 Membership Coordinator: Ann-Marie Kirshon
 Newsletter Editor: Diane Rowe

The Friends meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Norton Public Library. All Friends are invited to attend.

Annual fundraising events:

- Spring and Fall Book Sales
- Spring Plant and Bake Sale
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Fall Flea Market

Norton Public Library staff contributing to this issue:

Head Librarian: Elaine Jackson
 Assistant Head Librarian/Youth Services Librarian: Lee Parker
 Reference Librarian: Jane Michelmore

A Word from the Head Librarian

As you probably already know, I will be retiring in June. Congratulations to Lee Parker, currently our Assistant Head Librarian and Youth Services Librarian who will become the new Head Librarian on July 1, the start of our new fiscal year. My deepest hope is that the budget we request at town meeting will be passed to enable us to get on the road to certification. We are asking for \$322,525. This amount meets the “accommodation policy” set by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and will allow us to be open 40 hours per week and to receive 50% of our state aid. It is still a far cry from our FY2008 budget, but it will be a positive step. Then we had \$452,008 and we were open 50 hours a week. We must be open at least 40 hours per week for a whole year before we can even apply for certification and restoration of our reciprocal borrowing privileges. I know this is important to you; so let your voice be heard by our new Town Manager, the Finance Committee and the Selectmen soon.

Reminiscing a little bit – I started off as Children’s Librarian in the old library in 1989. My office was in the renovated coal bin and the children’s section was in the basement. We held story hours (and made “feet sheets”) in very cramped quarters; special events were held at the church across the street. Crossing the street was a life-threatening experience! Dr. Barbara Jackson donated \$1000.00 to the library that year, and we

enjoyed her recurring donations for 10 years, celebrating each year with Dr. Jackson’s Reading Club, when she and others came to read to the children once a week for a month. “A Night of a Thousand Stars” brought local celebrity readers to the old library in 1990 and again to the new library in 1992. The move to the new building in 1991 meant more room for “Sammy” at storyhour. We saw the inception of the Jr. Friends of the Library in the old library and later the addition of the Young Adult Club as those charter members aged...ah, yes! flea markets and sleepovers at the library...those “kids” will never be forgotten.

From 1989 to 1998, my spare time was spent earning two Master’s Degrees, one in Education from Bridgewater State College (now University) and the other from Simmons College. In 1994, the library received an LSTA grant for programs for senior citizens. We’ve held a variety of programs every third Thursday morning since then. We revived our evening book discussion and began an exciting summer reading program for adults. Children aren’t the only ones who can have fun at the NPL! Many thanks to the Friends of the Library for their consistent financial support of our endeavors.

Along the line, ABLE merged with SEAL to give us our SAILS network. We still see many of those green ABLE cards in use today. In 1998, I was appointed Head Librarian and thus became

the library’s 7th professional librarian, (serving 13 years – tying with Margaret Eden for the longest tenure). My husband passed away in 2000, and the Library Board of Directors set up the “Jeff Jackson Technology Fund” in his honor as he was our volunteer computer expert for many years.

Here we are in 2011, our 20th year in the “new” library and celebrating the 125th anniversary of the library’s charter. The library has certainly been a positive presence during Norton’s 300 years and will continue to be “the hub of the community,” offering opportunities for “lifelong learning” under the able leadership of Lee Parker whose feet are firmly planted in the 21st century. Times are certainly changing and the library will change with the times.

Many thanks to all who had a part in my 22 years of memories at the Norton Library: my co-workers, our patrons (both children and adults), our Board of Directors, our Friends of the Library and our many other volunteers who have given so much of their time and energy to support us. Thank you all.

*Elaine Jackson
Head Librarian*

Reference and Adult Collection

Services for our patrons are alive and well even with the limitations of network borrowing due to our decertification. We still can find items not contained in the SAILS catalog through our statewide online service named the Virtual Catalog. This online catalog can be found through our web page or the iBistro catalog. An item not cataloged in the SAILS network catalog can be requested and sent to our library with your SAILS card from home or in the library. Also, we still have access to the regional Interlibrary Loan program which is funded with state money. This service can be accessed through request and I will order for you. Again, this service is for a unique or specific item, magazine article, microfiche, or microfilm not available in the regular network catalog.

Our regular adult programming is very active as always. We have added a Writing group which meets the second Thursday of each month. We do writing exercises and share our work with each other. If you would like to join or have more information on this new group, give me call at 508 286-2695.

Our book discussions continue with the Men meeting the first Monday and two other groups meeting the first Wednesday at 10:30 in the morning and the first Thursday at 4 in the afternoon. The latter two groups read the same book and the title for the month

can be found on our Calendar of Events on the Norton Library website www.nortonlibrary.org.

During the months of April and May we have additional programs other than Elaine Jackson's well-established Adult Program offered on the third Thursday morning of the month. On April 12 at 6pm Gary Hylander, PhD, will present a lecture on the "First Ladies of the Civil War." This date marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the hostilities which became known as the Civil War. On Thursday April 28, at 6:30pm, Ken Gloss of the Brattle Book Shop will present a program which will help us verify (or not) that "rare book" we call the "family treasure". Bring your item with you and he will let you know the answer to the question you've been asking yourself for years. On Sunday, May 1, we will be having a special day with Civil War enthusiasts, some of whom will be sharing their collections with us. We hope to have a Community Room full of exhibitors and interested viewers.

These three programs are provided through the generosity of the Friends of Norton Public Library and Dr. Hylander, Mr. Gloss and Dana Zaiser of the Old Colony Civil War Round Table and his fellow collectors.

Plans are taking shape for our adult summer reading program. The theme for 2011 is "Novel

Destinations" and we will be reading *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck. Anna Biron will again create a menu for the "Book Cooks" to prepare and enjoy. Keep an eye on our webpage for further information and registration.

Jane Michelmore
Reference Librarian

Morning Adult Program

10:30 am – 11:30 am

4/21 – The Fashion, Life and Etiquette of the Victorian era by Kandie Carle

5/19 – Great American Letters vs. the Computer by Judy Bernstein

6/16 – Road Show by the Star Players of Bristol County

Women's Book Group Led by Jane Michelmore, the Women's Book Group meets the first Wednesday of every month from 10:30 am-12 noon and the first Thursday at 4:00 pm

Men's Book Group Led by Jay Boucher, the Men's Book Group meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Writers Group Second Thursday at 10:30 am or 6:00 pm

Knitting and Crocheting Drop-in Led by Kathy Kearney, the sessions are held every Thursday at 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Children's Room News



We will soon be celebrating National Library Week, the library's 125h

birthday and National Children's Book Week -- with tons of fun literacy programs. We continue to partner with The MOMS Club of Norton, Community Partnerships for Children, the Land Preservation Society, local businesses, and the Friends, enabling us to offer a wide variety of programs despite our cuts.



This spring, we will have a puppet show,



a kids' yoga class,

a visit from Dora the Explorer,



Book Explorers classes for K-3,

a music & movement class, a bird's nest program, Play & Learn classes, a Going to Kindergarten program, family storytimes and crafts.

The statewide summer reading theme this year is world travel. The children's slogan is "One



World, Many Stories" and the teen slogan is "You Are Here." Send postcards to

the library from your trips, or photos of you holding your library card in front of a landmark - they will help make a border for our summer bulletin board, and you will be entered into a raffle! Thanks to the Friends, local businesses and the Norton Cultural Council, some of the fun events we will be having this summer include Tuesday evening concerts in the park, Around the World crafts with Let's Gogh Art, Making Music for toddlers and preschoolers with Ellen Hoffman, Caps for Sale around-the-world puppet shows, Harry Potter Book Cooks for Kids, Hunger Games Book Cooks for teens, and family storytimes. See these events and more on our online calendar.

<http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=NORTONPL>

So that people will be able to participate even while away, we will have also an online component again, funded by the state. The Friends have generously funded prizes such

as tattoos, magnet frames, vehicle silly bands, doorknob hangers, pencils and books for participants. Registration won't start until the end of June, but here is the link:

<http://www.readsinma.org/index.asp?lib=norton>

Each year, the Friends contribute more and more to the library. Thanks to them, you have access to more museum passes, movies, music, videogames, book club selections and bestsellers. They also fund Constant Contact, which is how many of you are receiving updates from the Library! New items can be seen with one click on our website. Visit www.nortonlibrary.org to see what's new at the library, find us on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Norton-Public-Library/154208317950830> and see our videos of teens sharing stories there or on our phanfare page, which hosts all our program photos <http://nortonlibrary.phanfare.com/>

On a personal note, I would just like to wish Elaine Jackson best wishes in her retirement - she will be missed!

*Lee Parker
Asst. Head Librarian/ Youth
Services Librarian*

Be a Friend

Want to join the Friends of the Norton Library? Please fill out the membership form and return it to:

Friends of the Norton Library
68 East Main St
Norton, MA 02766

Time to Renew?

Take the time to renew your membership now. Please fill out the membership form and return it to the Friends. Please note on the form if you are interested in becoming involved with any activities. Any address changes, corrections, or questions regarding your membership please call Ann-Marie Kirshon at 774-292-6173 or email FriendsOfNortonPublicLibrary@gmail.com.

Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$7
Senior \$3
Family \$10
Sponsor \$25
Life \$100
Corporate Sponsor \$300

Volunteer Opportunities

The Friends are always in need of volunteers. Here are some of the ways you can help the Friends in addition to paying your membership dues:

- ✓ Chair a committee
- ✓ Be on the board of directors
- ✓ Coordinate a book sale
- ✓ Coordinate a plant sale
- ✓ Bake something for the bake sale
- ✓ Edit the newsletter
- ✓ Volunteer for a committee
- ✓ Work at a book sale or plant sale

Come to a meeting to find out what you can do to help the Friends. New faces and ideas are always welcomed.

Membership Form

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Type of Membership: _____

Please check off any events you may be interested in helping with and a member of the Friends will contact you before that event.

- Book Sales
- Plant Sales
- Bake Sale
- Serve on board
- Conduct a program
- Other (explain)

Return form along with your membership dues to:

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Don't Miss This Upcoming Event

- **April 11 - History of Barrowsville**
- **April 12 - First Ladies of the Civil War**
- **April 21 – Spring Plant and Bake Sale**
- **April 28 - Is there value in you Old and Rare Book?**
- **May 1 – Civil War Display**
- **May 3 - Spring Book Sale Friends Only Night**
- **May 16 - History of East Norton**

Details inside!