

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Norton Public Library

October 2008 Volume 6 Issue 2

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! I'm sure that by now most of you know about the reduced hours of operation for the library due to budget cuts. Our semi-annual book sale will still be held at the beginning of November, since we received special permission from the library board to keep the same hours of operation as all of our previous sales. Please stop in and pick up some books for the upcoming winter. The monthly Friends meeting has been changed from the 2nd Wednesday of the month to the third Tuesday at 6:30 P.M.

Recently, the Friends held a flea market on the library lawn, which was quite a success. Thank you to all of the vendors who purchased a space and to everyone that shopped on that beautiful Saturday! The 2nd annual basket raffle was also held the day of the flea market. A special thanks to all of you who purchased raffle tickets, and congratulations to all the lucky winners! Also, thanks to

Diane Tosca for helping to create them, and to Elaine Jackson, Jane Michelmore, and Kristen Miller for selling the raffle tickets and manning the Friends table during the flea market.

I would like to send a very special thank you to Robert Keating and Sandy Newfield for their brilliant fundraising ideas, which were quite a success!

In the future, the fundraisers and dues will be needed to purchase materials for the library, which are not included in the budget. Please, continue to support the Friends by making sure your dues are current. Also, if you could encourage friends and family to join our group the added support would be wonderful!

Enjoy the fall and the upcoming holiday season and once again thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Joanne Porter

The Friends would like to thank all of our supporters who contributed to the "Stimulus Fund." The generosity of all of the contributors, especially during times of economic uncertainty, has been overwhelming. Due to budget cuts, the library will be relying on the Friends for financial support more than ever. The monies raised from this fundraiser will be used to purchase new materials for the library. Thank you again for supporting the Friends and the library!

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Fall Book Sale

The Friends Book Sale will be held November 5th through the 8th. Friends Only Evening will be held Wed., November 5th, from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. For the best selection, please come on Friends night. If you are unable to attend Wednesday, regular hours for the sale are:

Thursday, November 6th, from
10:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Friday, November 7th, from
10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Saturday, November 8th, from
9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to budget cuts, the main library area will NOT be open during the sale on Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday. On Thursday the main library is open until 2:00 P.M.

If you are cleaning out your book shelves, we would deeply appreciate any gently used book donations. The Friends will be accepting donations until Thursday, October 23rd.

Thank you for your support and hope to see everyone at the sale!

Jeans for Teens

The Greater Attleboro Area Council for Children is collecting Jeans for Teens for this year's Make A Difference Day. This Year's program came into focus after the council heard of a local teen who had considered dropping out of school because she only had one pair of pants to wear. They noticed that while jeans are typically seen on the wish list of the teens in their Christmas is for Kids Drive, they are rarely seen among the donations they receive.

Therefore, the jeans they collect will be distributed through the Christmas is for Kids Program. How Can *You* Make a Difference in Our Community? Donate a pair of NEW jeans on Oct. 25th from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon at the following Norton locations:

Personal Best Karate – 250 East Main St., Norton
Norton YMCA – 111 West Main St., Norton
Also, a drop-off box will be available at the Library from Oct. 14 – 28.



New Library Hours

Mondays and Tuesdays 12-8

Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-2.

Turkey Brigade

Norton Community Lions in conjunction with Personal Best Charity are conducting a food drive for Thanksgiving Day baskets for families in Norton and surrounding communities. A drop-off box is located in the Library. Items requested are canned green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and brownie mix.

Book Sale Coupon

**Good for one
free book**

Nov. 5-8, 2008

A Word from the Head Librarian

As you know, the Norton Library's budget for the current fiscal year was severely cut at Town Meeting in May. On July first, we began our new fiscal year being open only 4 days, 26 hours a week. We've lost 5 staff members: Mike Briody who was our Circulation Supervisor, Pat McDonald, a circulation assistant who also led our evening book discussion, Linda Fillion, the assistant to our Youth Services Librarian, Carol Garlington, a circulation assistant and Carolyn Ohlson, our high school page.

Carol Garlington has agreed to be our "Volunteer Coordinator" and has rounded up a superb bunch of volunteers including former employees Pat and Linda and current employees Paula Calhoun and Jo-Anne Hayes. Other volunteers include Joanne Porter and Kristen Miller (President and VP of the Friends, respectively), Donna Summerfield who is a member of our Board of Directors, Allison Keaney, Kathy Keaney, Janet Linehan, Barbara Martin, Virginia Merola, Paula Noonan, Stephanie O'Brien, Sandra Perez, Pauline Solmonese, Ann Tamulis, and Barbara Wilson. Many thanks to all of you!

Kathy Mooney has been volunteering here even before our hours were cut. Thank you

Kathy, for your long-time service!

The Board of Directors voted to change our open hours to make a more consistent schedule. We will still be open only 26 hours per week, but beginning October 1, the library will be open Mondays and Tuesdays from 12 to 8 and on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 until 2. These hours will hopefully be more convenient for the early risers and the after work crowd. We will still be able to hold some programs for children and adults in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Residents of Norton will still be able to borrow items from other libraries and to use their library cards at other libraries until February when we will most likely lose our certification. Then, residents will be blocked by zip code from the SAILS network.

We are trying to provide the best service we can with the staff and materials that we have. We thank everyone for their patience with long lines and short hours. We want you to know how much we appreciate your support of the Friends' "Stimulus" drive and the "Recycle Day." These two major fund-raisers will help us purchase materials for our

collection, provide programs for both children and adults, and purchase supplies that our budget won't cover. We thank the Friends for all their hard work on the Flea Market and on the upcoming book sale, too. Now, more than ever, we need our Friends.

We are sorry to report that our staff has been reduced once again with the resignation of Denise (McDermott) Briody. Denise, our Technology Coordinator, has been employed at the library for 20 years, but has taken a position with her alma mater, Wheaton College, in their Registrar's Office. We wish her well.

Ken Perlow has once again agreed to lead our "Great Decisions" discussion group this winter. We are still trying to set a time for that.

We are continuing with our monthly morning programs for adults which are held at 10:30 on the third Thursday morning of every month, year round. The Friends have been kind enough to fund most of these programs with some help from the Norton Cultural Council. On October 16, the two organizations will jointly fund Marcia Estabrook as Madam Curie. Marcia has performed at the library before – always to rave reviews.

That same afternoon, the library and NICE (Norton Institute for Continuing Education) will host a lecture by Stephen Puleo on his book, *Dark Tide*, the story of Boston's molasses flood. Mr. Puleo has agreed to autograph his books which will be for sale. Join us at 1:30 for that program.

On November 20, Peggy Baker, curator of the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth will lend some light on the subject of "Thanksgiving in America – Fact or Fiction?" We welcome age-appropriate homeschoolers to all of these adult programs.

December 18th will bring Hot Holiday Jazz, something a little different this year. Come and find out what's so hot! Both of these programs are funded by the Friends.

Patty Carpenter will return on January 15. Her music is always enjoyable. She has received a grant from the Norton Cultural Council for this program.

On Thursday morning, November 13 at 11:00, Charles Nicholas will present a discussion of New Yorker cartoons from 1985 to the present. Co-sponsored by the library and NICE, this program is free and open to adults from Norton and surrounding towns.

The library is a drop-off place for used eyeglasses for the Lions Club, food for the Cupboard of Kindness and labels for the schools. Again this year, we will soon be collecting "Jeans for Teens." You may drop off new jeans at the library between October 14 and 28.

Remember to support our Friends' book sale! Thank you, Friends, for all you do!

*Elaine Jackson
Head Librarian*



Morning Adult Program

10/16 – Marcia Estabrook –
"Marie Curie"

11/20 – Peggy Baker –
"Thanksgiving in America – Fact or Fiction?"

12/18 – Hot Holiday Jazz

Women's Book Group Led by Jane Michelmore, the Women's Book Group meets the first Wednesday of every month from 10:30 A.M.-12 noon.

Men's Book Group Led by Jay Boucher, the Men's Book Group meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 P.M. beginning in November.

Please note that the Library no longer recycles used printer cartridges and cell phones.

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

**Good libraries need good
Friends!**

Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Joanne Porter
Vice President: Kristen Miller
Secretary: Margaret McKenney
Treasurer: Joan Casper
Membership Coordinator: Kristen
Miller
Newsletter Editor: Diane Rowe

The Friends meet on the third
Tuesday of every month at
6:30P.M. 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

**Norton Public Library staff
contributing to this issue:**

Head Librarian: Elaine Jackson
Assistant Head Librarian/Youth
Services Librarian: Lee Parker
Reference Librarian:
Jane Michelmore
Technology Coordinator:
Denise Briody

**Reference and
Adult Collection**

Our morning adult book
discussion group continues to
grow. We are at the present
time offering only one women's
adult book discussion session
due to the retirement of the
evening book discussion leader,
Pat McDonald. The morning
group meets the first
Wednesday morning of the
month at 10:30am. The books
for the daytime session for
October, November and
December are "The Book
Thief" by Marcus Zusak, "Post-
American World" by Fareed
Zakaria, and "The Constant
Gardner" by John LeCarre
respectively. Check the library
web page for the selections and
dates of meetings.

We are very excited to be
starting a men's book
discussion group. Jay Boucher
of Norton has offered to lead
the group which will begin its
existence in November. The
meeting time will be at 6:30
P.M. on the first Monday
evening of the month. Jay has
volunteered to lead and select
the books for this session. He is
an adjunct faculty member at
WPI and has enjoyed having
informal book discussions with
his son. We are looking forward
to this new program and the
first book discussed on
November 3 will be "The
World is Flat" by Thomas
Friedman. Call the library if
you have any questions.

Our materials budget
has been cut drastically and we
are selecting carefully. We have
opted to purchase best sellers,
Books on CDs, DVDs and
periodicals. We may have to
reduce the number of magazine
subscriptions when our current
plan runs out but we will try to
maintain our daily and Sunday
newspapers: *The Boston Globe*,
The Attleboro Sun, *The
Brockton Enterprise* and our
weekly *Norton Mirror*. At the
present time there is little
money available to keep up our
Reference collection but I have
chosen to renew Morningstar
Mutual Fund and the
Physician's Desk Reference.
Our non-fiction adult collection
purchases again will be based
on the best seller lists.

At the October Friends meeting
we will be submitting a request
as to how we will be spending
the money earned with the
stimulus collection, which has
been earmarked for material
purchases. This will help us fill
in some of the gaps in our
collection due to the budget
cuts. In these tough times it is
even more important to have
"Friends."

*Jane Michelmore
Reference Librarian*

Technology Corner

Many of you are probably well aware of all the library services you can do from the comfort of home. Perhaps our most exciting and popular addition to our library services has been the ability for patrons to reserve their own museum passes from our home page at www.nortonlibrary.org. The system we use is called Tixkeeper and it is very user friendly. Simply select the date you wish to go, choose the museum pass and click on the red "Request Pass" button. Follow the on screen information to complete your reservation. Don't forget that your PIN number is the last four digits of your phone number. Once you have completed the necessary steps, print out the confirmation page and bring that and your library card to the library to pick up the pass. How easy is that!

Due to our budget cuts, we were unable to continue subscribing to our Ancestry.com database. I know this was a popular resource for those of you who were interested in researching your family genealogy. Please see our Reference Librarian for additional resources to help you in your search.

On a more personal note, I wanted to take this time to let you know that after twenty years of working for the Norton Public Library, I have resigned as Technology Coordinator. It

has been a wonderful twenty years getting to know so many people in the community and I have many fond memories. I started working as a page (shelving books) in the old Library building when I was in high school and continued on as a Circulation Assistant working the front desk in the current building. For the past ten years I have been the Technology Coordinator and have enjoyed helping so many of you learn to use our library resources and become a little more familiar with using a computer. I won't be going too far as I will be working at Wheaton College in the Registrar's Office as the Assistant for Student Systems. I will miss working with you all and will miss the chance to interact with so many wonderful people on a daily basis. Best wishes to all!

*Denise Briody
Technology Coordinator*

Children's Room News

The families, Jr. Friends and YAs all enjoyed the visits with Clifford and Curious George during the Friends' Scholastic Book Fair in June. The Friends earned books for the library, and the reading participants loved the books and posters as prizes. The shelving earned from the event should be here soon, and it will help us maintain the children's collection.

"Wild Reads at your library" was the theme of this year's statewide summer reading program. The Friends sponsored The Library Boogie puppet/concert, and co-sponsored Pumpnickel Puppets. We also had science, animal, craft and musical programs throughout the summer. If you weren't able to enjoy any of this year's events, keep us in mind for next year. The 2009 theme is Starship Adventure at your library, and we will be collecting materials and ideas for out-of-this-world programs.

This fall, we have a reduced schedule but will still have a variety of programs for different ages. We have sports classes, music classes, storytimes, movies, game/craft programs, Jr. Friends & YAs - and the Friends will sponsor the annual Pumpkin Festival on October 23. Be sure to check out our calendar of events to see what's happening.

As always, I appreciate the Friends' constant support. You help make the library work!

*Lee Parker
Assistant 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?

Any membership renewal received after November 1st is good through 2009! Take the time to renew your membership now. The date after your name on the mailing label shows your year last paid. Please take the time now to 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 Kristen Miller at 508-285-2315 or email ksonnenberg@comcast.net.

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
- ❖ 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:

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

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Don't Miss These Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 16 – Boston Molasses Flood Lecture**
- **Oct. 23 – Pumpkin Festival**
- **Nov. 5 - Fall Book Sale Friends Only Night**
- **Nov. 13 - New Yorker Cartoon Lecture**

Details on all these events inside!