

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Norton Public Library

March 2009 Volume 7 Issue 1

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this article, the snow is falling and there is about a foot of it! It is hard to believe that spring is less than three weeks away. The Friends will be having their usual spring events, which include the annual plant and bake sale, the book sale, the Scholastic book fair, and our fourth annual "Friends Appreciation Evening". There is more detailed information for each event in this newsletter. Please try to attend any or all of our wonderful events!

If anyone has recently visited the library website, you may have noticed some changes. There is a new website that is very user friendly and is much easier to navigate through, thanks to the hard work of Lee Parker and Jane Michelmore. The new site was funded by the Jeff Jackson Technology Fund and the Friends.

As most of you already know, the library was decertified on February 12th. As a result, patrons can no longer borrow materials from certified libraries. The Friends are trying to make this terrible loss to our library and patrons a little easier by making a monthly donation to the library to purchase new materials such as best sellers. This will continue for as long as there are funds to do so.

It is your continued support that allows the Friends to assist the library. If possible, please renew your membership and attend our fundraisers, so that we can continue to do so!

Thanks to everyone who has already sent in their dues. The Friends truly appreciate your support. Have a wonderful spring!

Sincerely,
Joanne Porter

A BIG thank you to all who participated at the Chateau Fundraiser last week!

And thanks to all of those who couldn't go and dropped off a donation to the Library!

We raised \$1000!!! We appreciate the support of the Chateau Restaurant and look forward to another event next year.

In This Issue:

Message from the President	1
Plant & Bake Sale	2
Friend Appreciation Night	2
Spring Book Sale	2
Museum Passes	3
Shaw's Fundraiser	3
Monthly Adult Program	3
A Word from the Head Librarian	4
Reference and Adult Collection	5
Children's Room News	6

Annual Plant & Bake Sale

The plant and bake sale will be held on Tuesday, April 7th from 12 noon – 8 P.M.. There will be many beautiful flowers, such as tulips, hyacinths, Easter lilies, daffodils, primroses, and African violets. Also, there will be plenty of delicious baked goods.

If anyone would like to bake or purchase a dessert for the sale, your contribution would be deeply appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the library on Monday, April 6th, between 12 noon and 7:30 P.M.

Thank you for supporting the Friends.

Friend Appreciation Night

Our fourth annual appreciation evening will be held promptly at 5:00 P.M. on April 29th, 2009 in the community room. This year's event is titled an "Evening of Art." Kristi Johnston, of Kristi Johnston Artworks in Mansfield, will teach us how to make a print with a meat tray. How to do this has piqued my interest, so I didn't ask for details, so we can all be surprised! This is a beginner class for anyone, even those who don't have an artistic bone in their body! Kristi has taught several wonderful classes at our library and has also been

a long time supporter. Please show her our support and try to attend. This occasion is for current, adult Friends only. Please R.S.V.P. by April 23rd to Elaine Jackson at 508-286-2694 or at ejackson@sailsinc.org. Hope everyone can come and enjoy the evening!

Spring Book Sale

The book sale will be held May 6th through the 9th. Friends only evening will be held Wednesday, May 6th, from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. Please take advantage of the coupon in this letter for a free book. Also, for the best selection, please come on Friends night. If you can't attend Wednesday, regular hours for the sale are Thursday, May 7th, from 9:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. and Friday, May 8th, 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. On Saturday, May 9th, from 9:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M., it is fill a bag for a \$2 sale.

Anyone with donations of books, especially paperback novels and mysteries, can drop them off at the library by April 23rd, 2009.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the sale!

Thanks to all who are renewing their friends' membership in this difficult economic time. We truly appreciate your support. Those who had expired memberships in 2008 should have received an email or a postcard reminder. Please consider sharing your email with us if you have not already done so. It is a no cost way for us to keep you informed of our events.

Special Thanks to Roche Bros. for their continued support throughout the year!

Book Sale Coupon

**Good for one
free book**

May 6-9, 2009

Museum Passes

The Friends help the Library purchase passes to local museums. Check the listing below of available passes and the amount of savings possible. You can reserve passes with TIXKEEPER on the Library website.

Easton Children's Museum
4 people half-price
\$12 saving

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
\$5 per person up to 4 people
\$28 saving

John F. Kennedy Library
\$3 per person up to 2 people
\$18 saving

Massachusetts State Parks
Free day parking
\$2 - \$7 saving

Museum of Science in Boston
\$5 per person up to 4 people
\$56 saving

Mystic Seaport
2 adults plus 3 children free
\$58.50 saving

Plimoth Plantation
\$10 per person up to 4 people
\$72 saving

Providence Children's Museum
\$2 per person up to 4 people
\$22 saving

Roger Williams Park and Zoo
50% discount admission up to 4 people
\$24 saving

Salem Witch Museum
complimentary pass
\$8 per person saving

Shaw's Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who dropped off receipts at the library. We had a great response to this fundraiser. Unfortunately, just as it was really getting going, Shaw's has changed the guidelines. They will no longer accept receipts, but the library will still receive 1% percent of each supporter's eligible Reward Card purchases when you shop on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. In order, for the library to receive any funds from Shaw's, each person has to register their Shaw's Reward Card online at www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards. It only takes a minute, all you have to do is follow the steps. The Friend's Neighborhood Reward ID # is 49001019910, which you will have to enter in order for the Friends to receive any contributions. This is a very easy way for the Friends to raise funds, so please, ask everyone you know who has a Shaw's Reward Card to sign up and support the Friends and the library.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming in June.

Morning Adult Program 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

4/16 – Gary Hylander – “Paul Revere’s Ride”

5/21 – “Two Old Friends” Mac and Emory return from Maine

6/18 – “We 2” featuring the music of Carolyn Melesky and Ken Almeida

7/16 – TBA

8/20 – TBA

9/17 – “Laugh Along and Sing Along with Mel Simons”

10/15 – Ann Sears – “That Swell Romance: Astaire and Rogers in the Movie Musical”

11/19 – Richard Clark – “And Now...Mark Twain”

12/17 - TBA

Women's Book Group Led by Jane Michelmores, 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. - 8:00 P.M

A Word from the Head Librarian

I'm sure that you know that the Norton Public Library was decertified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) on February 12. We've enjoyed quite a long grace period as our budget was cut at Town Meeting last May and those cuts went into effect on July 1st when we lost 5 staff members and cut our hours from 50 to 26 per week. The threat of losing our reciprocal borrowing privileges was ever-present for the last eight months, but many people thought it would never happen. Yes, it is true. Norton residents cannot borrow materials from other libraries except East Freetown, Assonet, Wareham (all decertified), Swansea, Mass Maritime, Bristol Community College and all the K-12 schools that are in the SAILS network. SAILS had nothing to do with our loss of reciprocal borrowing privileges. It is a state law that certified libraries can enjoy these privileges. It follows that when a library is decertified, the Trustees of those libraries may deny service. So why, in these tough economic times, did the MBLC vote to deny us a waiver of certification? Twenty-six libraries applied for waivers and only 4 were denied. Why? The reason is because those libraries were disproportionately cut when those library budgets were

compared to the rest of the municipal budget. There are 334 libraries in Massachusetts that are certified. Yes, some of those libraries suffered cuts, but not as deep as Norton's 35%.

What should we do now? Our road back to certification will be long. It begins with the passage of an adequately funded budget at Town Meeting. Then, 15% of our total expenditures must be spent on materials such as books, magazines, newspapers, museum passes, CDs, DVDs, books on CD, and electronic games. Monetary donations from the Friends count toward this requirement. We also must be open at least 40 hours per week and we cannot do that without an increase in our budget. Any delay in funding the library to state standards delays recertification even longer.

Anyone who is willing to help us get our supporters to attend Town Meeting, please email me at ejackson@sailsinc.org.

We are trying very hard to keep smiling. The situation is very stressful, both for our patrons and our staff. We will make every effort to provide you with the best service we can under the circumstances. Meanwhile, we are continuing many of our regular programs with help from our Friends. Watch for this

summer's Adult Reading Program – it is bound to be fun!

Congratulations to the Friends of the Norton Public Library for all of their successful fundraisers this year. We don't know what we'd do without our Friends. Many thanks!

*Elaine Jackson,
Head Librarian*



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

Reference and Adult Collection

Our morning adult book discussion group continues to meet monthly. The morning group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30am. The books for the daytime session through June are "Home: a memoir of my early years" by Julie Andrews, "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan, and "A Room with a View" by E. M. Forster. Check the library web page for the selections and dates of meetings.

Our men's book discussion group continues to meet monthly since its inception this November. The meeting time is at 6:30 pm on the first Monday evening of the month and Jay Boucher continues leading the discussions. The choice for April is "Sea of Poppies" by Amitav Ghosh.

As you know, our materials budget has been cut drastically. Once again the Friends of the Norton Public Library have come to the rescue. Since decertification limits our patrons' access to best sellers, the Friends are generously purchasing extra copies of top ten bestsellers for our shelves. We still have our rotating plan for Books on CDs and Large Type although the numbers of selections per month is less than last year. We have reduced the

number of magazine subscriptions by 20% based on usage statistics. We are still maintaining our daily and Sunday newspapers: *The Boston Globe*, *The Attleboro Sun*, and our weekly *Norton Mirror*. We have not been purchasing items in the Reference department since the fall. We do, however, have a new Science Reference database provided by the SEMLS region which is very helpful to higher level students needing information for science reports. With our new web page up and running, we will be able to more effectively point out the availability of all the databases provided by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to our remote and in-house computer users.

The Stimulus funds have been used to purchase DVD's, music and computer software. Without this money our film and movie acquisitions would be severely limited. Once again our Friends come through for all of our patrons!

*Jane Michelmore
Reference Librarian*

Children's Room News

Thanks to the Friends and the Jeff Jackson Technology Fund, we have a beautifully redesigned website which highlights how far "Beyond Books" we have come. The redesign of our ten-year-old website was aimed at maximizing townspeople's easy access to online library services. Downloadable audiobooks, instant access to databases, 24/7 reference, library calendar of events, museum pass bookings, photos of library programs, library statistics, local information and so much more are all just a click away. We hope this "virtual branch" will ease the loss of certification as much as possible.

We may have less staff, less money, and fewer hours to get everything done, but the library certainly has been busy. With the added responsibilities of maintaining the website and assisting with circulation supervisory duties, I have had to make some adaptations to programming, but I have tried to continue to hold programs for various ages whenever possible. We have family storytimes instead of Mother Goose and Toddler Times, and we are unable to have America Reads with our curtailed hours, but we hope this will change in the future.

In March, we are celebrating National Reading Month with a Seuss-a-bration, and Teen Tech Week with gaming in the library. Thanks to the Jr. Friends and Young Adults purchase of the wii gaming system, and the Friends' stimulus donation funding videogame purchases, this type of programming can continue, and Norton residents are able to borrow videogames to play at home as well. In April, we will be celebrating National Library Week with fun literary programs and Books Gone Hollywood.

The MOMS Club of Norton continues to host occasional storytimes, Community Partnerships for Children continues to hold Play & Learn classes, and the Land Preservation Society has also held several bird programs this winter/spring.

We are planning to be out of this world this summer, with the summer reading program "Starship Adventure @ your library." The Norton Cultural Council has generously funded a summer theater workshop for older children and teens, music classes for toddlers and preschoolers, and three summer concerts for our Tuesday evening concerts in the park. The Friends are always a big help with reading incentives and

assisting with funding additional programs when necessary.

The Friends' donations have really made the difference this year – we have been able to add many popular new movies, music and books to the children's and teen areas. New items can be seen with one click on our website as well - visit www.nortonlibrary.org to see what's happening at the library.

Thank you, Friends, for everything that you do to help make the library a great place for Norton residents. Our families are fortunate to have you!

*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. 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
- ❖ 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:

Friends of the Norton Library
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Norton, MA 02766

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Don't Miss These Upcoming Events

- **April 7 - Spring Plant & Bake Sale**
- **April 29 - Friend Appreciation Night**
- **May 6 - Spring Book Sale Friends Only Night**
- **June – Scholastic Book Fair**

Details on all these events inside!