



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library

Friends Sponsor Book Sale, October 22-24

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library are pleased to invite you to the semi-annual Book Sale to be held in Menino Hall.

- Thursday October 22 6-8 p.m. Preview Sale for members
- Friday October 23 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Saturday October 24 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For the best selection – and for pastries and beverages - come to the members' preview evening. Not a member currently? no better time to join or renew!

The book sale offers a wide selection of titles in all genres appealing to adult and children's tastes. In addition, there will be raffles, one on Preview Night, and another on Friday and Saturday.

Autumn Happenings at the HP Branch

For Adults: Liz Smith, adult librarian, has scheduled classical and seasonal films for the Friday afternoon film series: *Alfie* on October 2, *King Kong* on the 9th, and *The House on Haunted Hill* on the 30th.

On the book front, the adult discussion group continues with its meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. On October 20, participants will discuss *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See, and on November 17, *The Monster of Florence* by Douglas Preston.

In the fireplace room, the bookcase in October will feature books on the theme of Thrills and Chills.

For Children: Mary Margaret Pitts, acting Branch and Children's Room Librarian, announces that toddler story time will resume on October 6 and continue through December 22 at 10:30 on Tuesday mornings.

The Hyde Park Branch joins other branches in the "Jump Start" family literacy program on October 8, with a reading of Eric Canale's "The Hungry Caterpillar" followed by a craft activity.

In conjunction with a city-wide effort, another family literacy evening will occur on November 12 at 6:30. The theme is "Tree of Thanksgiving." Children will create trees whose leaves describe things they are thankful for – a craft that will also add to the family's holiday décor.

Popular children's entertainer Sue Eaton will perform as the Autumn Fairy at 2 events on October 20 and November 17 at 10:30 a.m.

And children will be pleased to know that Margaret Sullivan will return on Monday afternoons beginning October 5 as a volunteer crochet teacher.

Autumn 2009

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October

- 1....Friends meeting
6:30 p.m.
- 2....Movie: *Alfie* 2:30 p.m.
- 3....Driftwood Fire Concert
2:30 p.m.
- 5....Lecture: *Alfie* Disorder
6:30 p.m.
- 6....Toddler Story time
resumes 10:30 a.m.
- 8....Evening Story Time
6:30 p.m.
- 9....*King Kong* 2:30 p.m.
- 22-24....FALL BOOK SALE
- 20....Sue Eaton, "Autumn
Fairy" 10:30 a.m.
- 20....Adult Book
Discussion 10:30 a.m.
- 30....*House on Haunted
Hill* 2:30 p.m.

November

- 5....Friends board meeting,
Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 12....Family Literacy Night:
Tree of Thanksgiving 6:30
- 14....Joan Blake 11 a.m.
- 17....Adult Book
Discussion 10:30 a.m.
- 17....Sue Eaton, Winter
Fairy 10:30 a.m.

December

- 3....Friends board meeting,
Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 15....Adult Book
Discussion 10:30 a.m.
- 22.... LAST Toddler Story
Time until Feb. 10:30 a.m.

January

- 7....Friends board meeting,
Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 19....Adult Book
Discussion 10:30 a.m.

Hyde Park Past Moves to the Present

Recently retired branch librarian Barbara Wicker knew there was a treasure trove of Hyde Park historical documents in Weld Hall. After all, they had been accumulating since the Hyde Park Historical Society had been founded in 1887, 25 years before the town became part of Boston, and Nancy Hannan, as president of the society for 38 years until her death in 2008, had attended to the material donated by families and organizations throughout the years.

"I always knew the boxes had to be opened but couldn't do it when I was working full time," Wicker said. "So when I retired, one of the first things I did was join the Historical Society." Since July, she has spent dozens of hours organizing the archival material.

Her progress was greatly aided, she said, with the arrival of summer interns Andromeda Woodward, now a sophomore art major at Skidmore College, and Kayla Grant, a freshman at Middlesex Community College in the Hospitality Industry program.

The young women scanned pictorial data and typed textual information into a computer. Jeffrey Gonyeau, senior program manager for the Historic Neighborhoods Center Program of Historic Boston, supervised their efforts. Funding for the digitalization project came from Urban Edge, a community development organization.

Wicker added that BPL at Copley was helpful in many substantive ways. The buildings department refinished magnificent wood cases which will display the collection in a fitting manner. Ron Grim, Leventhal Map Collection Curator, and Hank Scanell, micro-text head, were helpful in the sensitive process of sorting and evaluating maps and newspapers.

"There are so many treasures," Wicker said. Among them are a picture of Sarah Grimke, believed to have been owned by William Lloyd Garrison, a picture of the "Hyde Park Club, June 17, 1895" (all men, of course!), and a picture made of human hair, a genre popular in the Victorian era.

The work of organizing, conserving, and presenting the material continues. The Historical Society seeks to make the many gems available for viewing by the public and for use by researchers, carrying on the mission the Society first stated in 1888: "the promotion of the study of history."

Sometime during October or November (the date will be posted at the library when it is set), the Nancy Hannan Archives Room behind Weld Hall will be dedicated by Mayor Menino. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Hyde Park History.

HP Open Studios Weekend

December 5-6 12-5

HPOS returns to the Hyde Park Branch Library for its third two-day session the first weekend in December. Note: the LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN ON SUNDAY for this event.

Please join your library and artist friends for art, refreshments, and music.

by David Vieira

Joan Blake, Inspirational Author

On November 14, Joan Blake, author of *Standing on His Promises: Finding Comfort, Hope and Purpose in the Midst of Your Storm.* will speak in Menino Hall at 11 a.m. Her lecture will focus on the way she dealt with life struggles in America after leaving her native Trinidad.

Chess with Charlie

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2-6
Saturdays: noon-5

Learn to Crochet!

with Margaret Sullivan

Mondays, 4:30-6

From the Desk of the Webmaster

by Alice Kane

I am very excited to announce on behalf of the Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library that the Friends will now have an official website. The website will be fully available as of the middle of October, 2009, at the URL <http://www.friendshplibrary.org>. Our new website not only will give members and the general public details about our beloved branch library, but also provide information about ongoing activities and upcoming events.

All of the web pages are anchored by a left-hand sidebar with links to all other pages on the website, as well as hours and descriptions of what services and collections are available on each floor of the library. The "Welcome" page will highlight upcoming events, and the "Events" page will provide more detailed descriptions of each event or activity. The website's "Links" page will provide URL's to our Hyde Park community partners as well as others sources of information about the branch library.

By choosing the "About Us" link in the left-hand sidebar, the visitor is taken to the page which describes what the Hyde Park Friends do for the branch library and community. Additionally, this page will give the visitor a list of the Friends' groups Board of Directors and officers.

Want to get the latest branch news? The "News and Updates" page will give brief highlights about recent events at the branch library; a Photo Gallery page is planned to include photos taken by event participants that are submitted to the Friends. In the future we hope to add .pdf versions of the quarterly newsletter to this page, as well as other informational pages.

Not a member of the Friends yet, or want to make a donation? The "Join Us" and "Donations" links in the left-hand sidebar will take you to the "Membership" page on which you will find information about memberships and making donations. Membership levels and dues are described in a right-hand sidebar on this page, and a link is provided to a .pdf Membership/Donation form that can be printed and returned to the Friends.

So, come visit our website! E-mail us at friendshplibrary@yahoo.com. We look forward to knowing your comments about and suggestions for our website.

It's Our Birthday!

by David Vieira

Join us on Saturday, January 23, 2010, from 11:00 – 3:00 as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the rededication of the restored and expanded Hyde Park Branch Library. The Hyde Park Branch is the oldest branch building (NOT the oldest branch library) in the Boston Public Library system, in continuous operation since September, 1899. We also hold the distinction of being the only Branch that was erected as an independent town library before joining Boston in 1912. Celebrate our history as we reenact the dedication ceremonies from the year 1899 and 2000. Enjoy music, poetry, art exhibit and auction, children's activities and more.

As a special birthday present the Friends will be sponsoring a relighting of the original reading room with new energy-efficient bulbs (40 watt output while consuming 7 watts of power with anticipated life of 5 to 7 years). This green initiative was made possible by the Sylvania Electric Company and Standard Electric Company of Boston, who jointly donated fifty percent of the 100 bulbs for this project. The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch have generously funded the remaining bulbs (total 100 units). Join us as we light up the library for our birthday!



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**FRIENDS OF THE HYDE
PARK BRANCH
LIBRARY**

35 Harvard Avenue
Hyde Park, MA 02136

Phone: 617-361-2524

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bpl.org/branches

From the President: Business Membership Drive Announcement!

Based on the success of the targeted business membership drive this past spring – whereby 15 local business joined the Friends of the Hyde Park Library Business Partnership of the 35 businesses that were approached – the Friends have decided to launch a comprehensive community-wide, all-inclusive Business Partnership drive. The fall campaign will also expand to include an option for corporate sponsorship. We hope that the Business Partnership program will play an even bigger role in our efforts to bring the people of Hyde Park and the surrounding communities the excellent programming we have become accustomed to, especially during a time of diminished revenues and greater economic need.

Long live the Hyde Park Library!

Dr. Charles F. Carroll

Save the Date
Saturday, March 27, 2010
Friends' Annual Meeting

Steven Puleo, author
*Dark Tide: The Great Boston
Molasses Flood of 1919*

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