



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library

CHILDREN EXPERIENCE THE ARTS AT THE HYDE PARK BRANCH

by Kathy Adams

SUMMER 2007

Vol. XVIII Issue 2

MAY

- 5...."Joys of Growing Old"
Menino Hall 2:00
- 12...."All About Arthritis"
Menino Hall 11:00
- 15....Adult Book Discussion
Encore by May Sarton
10:30
- 19....Poet Ted Thomas 2:00
- 26....Tony Cibotti sings
"Something Old, Something
New" 2:00

JUNE

- 2....Citywide Friends Book
Sale, Copley Library 10-4
- 9....HP Branch Book Sale
Menino Hall 10-3
- 19.....Adult Book Discussion
10:30

JULY

- 10....Judy Pancoast 10:30
- 13....Read Boston 1:15
- 17....Sue Eaton 10:30
- 17....Adult Book Discussion
10:30
- 20....Read Boston 1:15
- 27....Read Boston 1:15
- 31....Science Museum
10:30

AUGUST

- 3....Read Boston 1:15
- 9....Ann McCreia 6:30
- 10....Read Boston 1:15
- 14....Scott Kepnes 11:00
- 17....Read Boston 1:15
- 21....Liz Buchanan 10:30
- 21....Adult Book Discussion
10:30

"Which dog do you think is the service animal?" the man asked. About 50 children clustered around a handsome black and white spaniel and a rather ordinary looking beige hound at the Hyde Park Branch Library on a late winter day, enthralled by husband and wife storytellers Tony Toledo and hearing-impaired K.R. Glickman.

While there aren't often dogs in the library, the event that brought them was one in a long series of programs planned by the HP Library professional staff. These events are variously funded by the Friends of the HP Branch Library, by the library's programming budget, and by outreach financing initiatives of area institutions. The programs are enthusiastically performed by the artists to enrich and diversify the library experiences of young patrons.

This was, in fact, Tony and K. R.'s second visit to the Library this winter. Bad weather on a November Saturday afternoon had resulted in a small turnout for their first performance. Pleased with the enthusiasm of those in attendance, Tony and K.R. offered to return during the February school vacation week.

This generosity is typical of the Library's performing artists. Singer Judy Pancoast arrived for her performance one stormy summer afternoon only to join the library staff and the gathering audience who were peering into the Library darkened by a multi-hour power outage. She returned from her New Hampshire home the following October to present her program, and she is on

this summer's schedule as well.

The HP Branch offers a wide range of programs for children throughout the year. Each summer, "Read Boston," a city-funded literacy-based program, sponsors a moving bookmobile featuring a performer and free books. Hyde Park is the one of the few libraries on its tour (see this summer's six July and August dates on the sidebar calendar).

Other institutions which provide programming include the traveling scholarship of the Museum of Science with its 30 minute educational program performed by museum staff. The winter edition of this Newsletter included pictures from a popular visit by Berklee College of Music's Jazz on Wheels.

As Branch Librarian Barbara Wicker points out, New England is remarkable for its wealth of talented people eager to share their specialties with young people. The artists who have come to the HP library are thrilled with the beautiful performance space, "an intended result of the renovation," says Wicker.

(continued p, 2)



26th ANNUAL JUNE BOOK SALE

SATURDAY JUNE 9, 2007 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Members Only Wine and Cheese Preview Sale: Thursday, June 7 6-8p.m.

Art in the Hyde Park Branch Library

by Barbara Wicker

One of the many highlights of the Bookmark Ball on March 3 was the unveiling by Mayor Menino of the newly restored portrait of Alpheus Blake.

The subject of the painting had an intermittent but important relationship with Hyde Park. Born on April 10, 1832, in Orange, New Hampshire, he was raised in the Granite State. At the age of 23, the enterprising young man founded a group of investors called the Twenty Associates.

On August 2, 1855, he traveled to Mount Neponset in what was then Dorchester. Walking over the hill, he looked across the river into Milton and was impressed by what he saw.

He returned on September 15, 1855, with his investor group and took the Brush Hill Road to the house of Deacon Nathan Tucker, the owner of the land. Led by their president, Alpheus Blake, the Twenty Associates bought the land November 23, 1855. Just 13 years later, it was incorporated as the town of Hyde Park.

By 1870, Alpheus was ready to move on to other ventures. He became involved with the Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn Railroad as well as land development in Florida.

On January 13, 1916, he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. James D. Hope, on Norway Park in the Fairmount section of Hyde Park. The town of Blake, Florida, and Blake Estates in Hyde Park are named for him.

The portrait was painted by Walter Gilman Page, a painter of portraits, landscapes, and still life. Page worked in Boston, Nantucket, and Paris. In the 1920's, he served as chairman of the Massachusetts State Art Commission.

It was a special honor to have John Arapoff in attendance at the Bookmark Ball. He restored this portrait of Alpheus Blake, and previously he had done the extensive restoration work on the Mehitable Sunderland tapestry and frame.

Children and the Arts continued

Children's Librarian Mary Margaret Pitts adds that the performers have expressed equal pleasure with the eager and attentive audiences ranging in age from young children with their parents through Junior Counselors who assist in programs at the Municipal Center.

It was this mixed group that listened to Tony's audience-involving "stories from my boyhood" and K. R.'s dramatic traditional tales. These young people asked insightful questions while learning about the bilingual culture of deaf people and the role of service dogs.

And which dog was it? Though initially swayed by the "good-looking spaniel," the audience learned that the "ordinary" dog who immediately and repeatedly nudged K.R. when she failed to respond to her husband's call, is the extraordinary service animal.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

- 7/10 Judy Pancoast: songs about reading
- 7/17 Sue Eaton: sing-along
- 7/31 Science Museum: "Animal Invaders"
- 8/9 Ann McCrea: porpoise stories
- 8/14 Scott Kepnes: music
- 8/21 Liz Buchanan: "Catch the Beat"

Kudos for the 2007

Friends of the Year

Charlotte Halloran

An original member and founder of the Friends, she galvanized the community when the Library was in jeopardy and helped make this organization thrive.

Lorraine Nessar

A faithful friend who handled membership responsibilities with thorough efficiency, she could be counted on to help at all Friends' events.

CALLING ALL GIRLS!

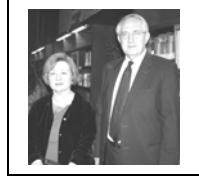
Citywide Friends and Warner Brothers Studios invite you to a reading from the Nancy Drew books in anticipation of the movie release on June 15.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 30, 10-12

WHERE: Abbey Room, Copley Library

WHO: Emma Roberts, niece of actress Julia Roberts

Hyde Park Friends in their Finest!



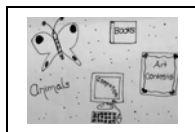
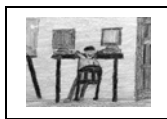
Scenes from the Bookmark Ball, 2007

Rare Book Sale Benefits Hyde Park Branch and the BPL by Victoria Gall

Rare, special interest, and autographic books donated to the Hyde Park branch were sold at the Citywide Friends Copley Square Library sale on April 8. John Wentworth, Victoria Gall, and Alice Kane delighted browsers with an assortment of fine quality books and made \$367. Ten percent went to the Citywide Friends group as a thank you for the opportunity to offer the books to such a large, diverse audience.

The conservator of the Rare Books Department of the Boston Public Library was pleased to accept the donation of two volumes of a rare 1887 set by Thomas Carlyle. Alice Kane identified the significance of these books and suggested they be given to the BPL, which did not own them.

Conservator Scott Walker also discovered a gem on the Hyde Park sales display, Thomas Shay Arthur's *Friendship Token* (1850), and asked if he could have it for the Rare Books collection, a contribution the Friends were happy to make.



The First Friends' Post Card Contest was a success! More than 60 young artists sent entries that answered the question, "What's going on in the Hyde Park Library?"

The winners, shown from left to right with Mayor Menino, are Sean Powel, age 9, Fritz Jolivian, age 12, and Bridget Devine, age 10. Students at St. Ann's school in Readville, each received a \$25 gift certificate to A.C. Moore, a framed copy of the winning post card, and a junior membership in the Friends' group. State Representative Angelo Scaccia and Boston City Counselor Rob Consalvo also awarded them citations of merit.

Purchase your cards at the Library check-out desk: 50 cents each or 5 for \$2.



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Victoria Gall

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**FRIENDS OF THE HYDE
PARK BRANCH
LIBRARY**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bpl.org/branches

From the Librarian's Desk

by Barbara Wicker

Reflecting over this past year, I would like to talk about three things.

The first is bad and good news. We have lost our Young Adult Librarian, Liz Smith, to the Mattapan Branch Library. The good news is that not only will she be working with Mattapan teens, but she will also be involved in designing and planning for Young Adult Services in the new Mattapan Branch Library.

The second item is our continuing involvement with the Hyde Park Arts Initiative. This is a coalition of community organizations – the Library, Friends, YMCA, Main Streets, Art Association, Artist-at-Large, Open Studios, and others. The networking has provided terrific outreach for us, and we have more community use of

Library space for events and exhibits. There is major talent in Hyde Park, and we are proud to be supporters.

Finally, we were so pleased that almost all HPAI partners were represented at the 3d Annual Bookmark Ball. This fun event raised more money to restore our small but beautiful and historic art collection. Thank you to the Friends for the hard work that produced another wonderful evening and a more beautiful Library.

Become Involved!

Attend a Friends board meeting: 1st Thursday each month at 6:30.

Help sort and arrange books for the sale; call 617-364-7497 to volunteer.

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