



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library

SUMMER 2008

Vol. XIX Issue 2

June

7....Gloria Ganno: Hyde Park Origins 2 p.m.

12-14....Book sale

16....Kevin Harris Project: Jazz performance 6:30p.m.

17....Adult Book Discussion 10:30 a.m.

July

2....Audubon Ark *

8....Libby Koponen *

11....ReadBoston **

15....Adult Book Discussion 10:30 a.m.

15....Face Painting *

18....ReadBoston **

22....Radical Reptiles *

25....ReadBoston **

29....Owls hunting *

August

1....ReadBoston **

5....Fox & Branch *

8....ReadBoston **

12....Interactive circus *

15....ReadBoston **

19....Adult Book Discussion 10:30 a.m.

19....Animal Invaders *

September

13....RESCHEDULED
Anthony Sammarco: "Old Hyde Park Revisited" slide show/lecture

* Terrific Tuesdays programs begin at 10:30 a.m. See adjacent article for details.

** ReadBoston programs begin at 1:15. See adjacent article for details.

Summer Fun Rules at the Hyde Park Branch!

While the library will be closed Saturdays from mid-June through Labor Day, it will host a beehive of activities Mondays through Fridays for patrons of all ages. Mark your calendars!

MONDAYS IN THE GARDEN (rain or shine) at 6:30

Music will be wafting from the library garden into Cleary Square again when last summer's popular concert series returns and expands.

The Kevin Harris Project, dedicated to teaching American jazz, opens the season on June 16. This creative and fun program is designed to appeal to audiences of all ages and has been performed along the East coast and in the Virgin Islands.

Musicians and dancers from the Hyde Park area will enliven the garden with their programs on seven consecutive Mondays beginning July 7. A list of performing artists will be available at the library. In the event of rain, programs will move to Menino Hall.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS (plus one Wednesday) at 10:30

Returning Children's Librarian Mary Margaret Pitts and Branch Librarian Barbara Wicker have scheduled a variety of exciting activities for school age children. The first will take place on Wednesday, July 2, the rest on consecutive Tuesdays through August 19. Come for fun and learning in the Children's Room.

7/2: Board **Audubon Ark** sailing into a summer of Wild Reads with a feathered friend or two.

7/8: Discover how **author Libby Koponen** turned events from her childhood into a novel.

7/15: Let **face painter Susan Halverson** transform YOUR face into a work of art.

7/22: Meet **Radical Reptiles** up close – including a live snake!

7/29: Watch **Owls** from the Trailside Museum show how they hunt in the dark.

8/5: Enjoy **Fox and Branch**, our favorite singing duo, and their summer songs.

8/12: Join **Jedlie**, Hyde Park's very own **totally interactive circus**.

8/19 Close the season with **Animal Invaders** including three species from the Museum of Science.

STORY HOUR EVERY WEDNESDAY at 10:30

Pre-school enjoy new and old favorite stories in the Children's Room.

READ BOSTON ON FRIDAYS at 1:15

Read Boston's roaming bookmobile will return to the Hyde Park Library for six Fridays. Children will enjoy a featured performer and select a book to add to their home libraries.

Second Home and Gateway to the Future

by Charles Carroll

Philosophers wonder, "Whence comes the man?"

If I ask this question, I cannot help but think that the man I am is in great part the small boy who called the Hyde Park library his second home while growing up in the Fairmount Housing Development and attending the Franklin Delano Roosevelt School.

The library, along with the woods, truly was my second home, compensating for the deprivations of growing up poor and augmenting the generous but finite resources of the school.

Nobody needs to convince me of the value of the library. I spent day-in and day-out there and was even locked in at closing on more than one occasion!

People ask me now if I remember particular librarians, and I do. But like my heroes in the books I loved the most – Danny Dunn and Nancy Drew, Doc Savage and Huckleberry Finn – the library was mostly a private world of wonder for me which I secretly shared only with these special friends.

I don't know if I read every book in the library, but I read an unfair number of them: how-to books, field guides, mysteries, sci-fi, adventure, westerns. I remember *How to Identify Animal Tracks* and *The Backyard Zoo*. I remember *Shovelnose and the Gator Grabbers* and *The Mystery of St. Moritz*. But my absolute favorite was *The Diamond in the Window* by Jane Langton. And, of course, *Tales of the Imagination* by Edgar Allan Poe.

At age 11, my literary tastes turned from Daniel DeFoe and Jules Verne to Erle Stanley Gardner and Ian Fleming. I began exploring the Adult Reading Room. On occasion I would be denied certain titles – *Peyton Place* comes to mind. However, much of my initial exposure to worldly knowledge came at the Hyde Park Library.

I am not sure that my round-the-clock reading turned me into the lifelong night owl that I am, but I am sure that it was in no small way responsible for my passing the Latin School entrance exam. My Latin school experience led me to new haunts such as the MFA and the Copley Library.

Still, I always returned to the Hyde Branch. I first read "Howl" by Allen Ginsberg there and Hunter S. Thompson's *Hell's Angels*. Baldwin, Mailer, and Miller, and all the poetry I could find.

As I exhausted the literary realm, I began reading philosophy and politics, particularly Nietzsche and Thoreau. While I was introduced to the classics at school, it was the library where I discovered the writings of my favorite author, Anton Chekhov.

Much of my life identity was formed by this early experience. In fact, eventually I would meet some of these authors, go to the places that I read about, and even become a writer myself.

I can't imagine what my life would have been like had it not been for the Hyde Park Library. A full scholarship to Tufts, four degrees from UMass, a Ph.D. – all for the love of books.

It only seems natural that I have come full circle in life to become a Friend of the Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library. I now have the opportunity to support and help foster the same environment that so positively influenced me.

And the library is much more now in comparison with the library of my bookish boyhood. It is a multi-media, multicultural, multi-resource bazaar! From help with SAT's to English as a Second Language, from computer classes to instruction in chess, from arts and crafts activities to local history presentations, the library has become a center of culture and of the community.

I am proud to be a part of it. I want everyone to be enlightened by it in a meaningful way. I am reminded of this every time I visit the library and see young people looking through the stacks. I want to share it with everyone.

That is why I am a member of the Friends. But there is still a young boy in me, lurking in the aisles, scanning the titles, and searching for that one tome that might reveal the secret meanings of the essential things in life.

HYDE PARK MEMENTOS

AFGHAN: Hyde Park architectural landmarks \$50 (\$45 member price)

POST CARDS: "My Library" "My Hyde Park" \$.25 apiece, 5 for \$1.00

available through the Circulation Desk

CHESS WITH CHARLIE

Tuesdays and Thursdays

2:30-5:30

It's all about the People!

Hail and Farewell

Hyde Park is one of the busiest branch libraries in the city, and certainly one reason is because of the exceptionally knowledgeable and helpful staff.

The library community bids farewell to two temporary staffers who enriched the library with their assistance over the winter and spring months, and congratulates two "regulars" on their new positions

Emily Perloff.

The energetic and delightful temporary children's librarian Emily Perloff had many accomplishments this year. Highlights included introducing Little Tikes laptops to preschoolers and managing a popular Mother's Day project. The Orient Heights Branch in East Boston is fortunate to have chosen Emily for their permanent position in the Children's Room.

Mary Margaret Pitts

Emily's departure preceded by a month the return of Mary Margaret Pitts to the Hyde Park Children's Room. Mary Margaret had been on temporary assignment at the main library at Copley, and she is delighted to be returning to her "home" base for which she already plunged into planning summer activities.

Liz Smith

Congratulations go out to Liz Smith who has been promoted to Adult Librarian, ably filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Virginia Lyons.

Liz has already assumed leadership of the Tuesday morning book discussion group, and she looks forward to adding a Monday evening group in the fall. She has also begun expanding the scope of the fiction and nonfiction adult collection, and she welcomes suggestions from Hyde Park patrons.

Jane Bickford

When the Connolly Branch in Jamaica Plain closed for repairs this winter, Hyde Park was most fortunate to inherit the services of its Branch Librarian, Jane Bickford. According to HP Branch Librarian Barbara Wicker, "Jane is an intrepid worker in all areas. She was invaluable during this winter of transition in our staff."

Reney Lambert

Yes, the plants are flourishing again thanks to the weekly volunteer services of Hyde Park grandmother Reney Lambert. Look for a description of her horticultural secrets in the next issue.

Dreams Unleashed

"What could be better than helping people reach their dreams and find opportunities they otherwise might not be able to access?" Jodi DiGregorio Then, coordinator of the TERI College Planning Center (located on the mezzanine of the Hyde Park Branch Library) clearly loves her job!

It is no secret that in a post-industrial global economy, Americans must be prepared for a new kind of job market. Pursuing education beyond high school has become essential to enhance career options. The HP Branch is pleased to house a TERI center, one of several in the Greater Boston area. These centers provide free college, career, and financial aid information to area residents.

Jodi is committed to helping her clients explore all of their educational options so they can make informed decisions and have the means to execute them. Thus she might advise high school students about the availability of advanced placement courses and help them get fee waivers for the SAT's and college applications. For adults seeking to develop a new skill set, she helps them locate programs available in their areas of interest and guides them through financial aid opportunities.

For college students of any age, she presents the joint admissions option: a Massachusetts program in which students who have earned an Associate's degree and maintained a certain grade point average are automatically admitted to state colleges and in some cases receive a tuition reduction.

Jodi welcomes clients at her library office on Mondays (noon to 8) and Wednesdays (10-6).

At their annual meeting, the Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library were pleased to honor

DAVID VIEIRA: Friend of the Year "unwavering in his belief in the ability of libraries to change lives"
ANH TUAN TRAN, BENJAMIN TRIEBER, and EMILY CARRARA: Winners of Post Card contest.



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Victoria Gall

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Ken Farr

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Patricia Ryan

Treasurer:

Mary Ellen Berman

Membership Chair:

John Wentworth

Board Members:

Charles Carroll

Alice Kane

Kathy Adams

Miki DePeiza

Newsletter

Kathy Adams

From Victoria Gall, President of the Friends

In July we will modify our membership process and begin a campaign to invite new members and welcome back lapsed Friends. The bargain membership price of \$5 individual, \$10 family remains.

We need volunteers with 3-5 hours per month to implement the new scheme. If you can help, please email me at friendshplibrary@yahoo.com.

Thank you! And all members are cordially invited to participate in our meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Menino Hall.

FRIENDS PURCHASE GARDNER MUSEUM PASS

Starting this summer, HP Branch patrons can check out a pass from the Circulation Desk enabling them to purchase a Gardner admission ticket for \$5 instead of \$12. This unique museum on the Fenway features a lush garden courtyard and art treasures – to say nothing of a terrific café!

THANK YOU !

Jennie Ryan
JoAnn McMillin
Pat Antoni

for many years of participation on the Friends Board of Directors. We look forward to their continuing participation as nonvoting members with emeritus status,

FRIENDS OF THE HYDE PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

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Phone: 617-361-2524

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www.bpl.org/branches

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