



# NEWSLETTER

*The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library*

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**SUMMER 2009**

**Vol. XX Issue 2**

## July

7....Zap!	10:30
9....Recycled craft	2:00
9....Cool Crochet	4-6
10....Read Boston	10:30
14....Patriotic July	10:30
15....Sue Eaton	10:30
16....Cool Crochet	4-6
17....Read Boston	10:30
21....Adult disc.	10:30
<i>Birth of Venus/SarahDunant</i>	
21....Mad Scientist	10:30
23....Cool Crochet	4-6
24....Read Boston	10:30
28....Rad Reptiles	10:30
30....Cool Crochet	4-6
31....Read Boston	10:30

## August

4....Judy Pancoast	10:30
6....Recycled Craft	2:00
7....Read Boston	10:30
14....Read Boston	10:30
18....Adult disc.	10:30
18...DavidPolansky	10:30

## “With Justice for All”

Friday

Afternoon

Films 2:30

Menino Hall

July 3, 10, 17,

## Summer Fun at the Hyde Park Branch

After a long winter, school is finally out, and the Hyde Park Branch Library is pleased to offer a variety of educational and entertaining programs for children throughout the summer.

### TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Aimed primarily at children 6 to 10 years old, these programs on Tuesdays at 10:30 feature a variety of events and performers.

**July 7: Zap!** Sarah Salerno-Thomas presents an interactive introduction to electricity.

**July 14: Patriotic July** Retired teacher and library activist Claire Pauley welcomes preschoolers as well as elementary students when she involves the children in crafts, storytelling, a sing-along, and of course, a parade!

**July 21: Mad Scientist** This presentation will focus on a welcome mid-summer topic: ice.

**July 28: Radical Reptiles**

**August 4: Judy Pancoast** “Take Me to your Reader”

### READ BOSTON

The Hyde Park Branch is again participating in this program sponsored by the Boston Redevelopment Authority. At each session, a story teller will perform, and each child can select a free book.

**Age:** pre-school to 12 **Time:** Fridays at 1:15, July 10 – August 14

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**SUE EATON** will return as the **SUMMERTIME FAIRY** in a program for preschoolers on Wednesday, July 15, at 10:30.

**CRAFT CREATIONS:** Make something new from recycled materials!

**Age:** 6-10 **Time:** Thursdays at 2 p.m.

**July 9:** Night and Day Crafts

**August 6:** Recycled Space Crafts

**COOL CROCHET FOR KIDS** Library patron and expert crochet teacher Margaret Sullivan has volunteered to give lessons to children approximately 10 and older. **Time:** July 9, 16, 23, 30, 4-6 p.m.

**FIREFIGHTER:** A local fireman who is a parent and a patron, has volunteered to come in gear and talk about what it's like to be a firefighter and discuss fire safety. **Check at library for date and time.**

## “Who’s Taking Care of the Books?”

Meet the library assistants, always essential to the smooth running of the Hyde Park Branch (one of the busiest in the city), especially now when 2 of 4 professional librarian positions remain unfilled as a result of budget problems.

Like all of the staff, **Theresa Cameron**, supervisor of the library assistants, is a whirlwind at the circulation desk, helping patrons who approach and fielding phone calls with friendly efficiency. Twenty-five years ago, she was returning books one Wednesday when she noticed a “Library Assistant Needed” sign and said, “When I come out, I’ll have a job.” During her career she has been at West Roxbury (“lost 22 pounds in 4 months there!”), Adams, and for 18 years at Hyde Park, and she received her Captain’s Chair for a quarter century of service to the BPL. In a typical encounter one afternoon, she admired a young patron’s dress, saying “that’s pretty.” The girl immediately replied, “I always wear dresses; I AM pretty” as she presented her books for check out. “These human encounters are the best,” says Theresa.

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## Bookmark Ball Honors Outgoing Librarian

by Jennifer Santos, courtesy of *Bulletin* Newspapers, Inc.

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library held their fifth annual Founders Day Bookmark Ball on April 4. The event celebrated the career of Librarian Barbara Wicker, who retired in February after 41 years of service to the city.

The event was attended by many community members, including Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Representative Angelo Scaccia, City Councilor Rob Consalvo, and Amy Ryan, President of the Boston Public Library.

“You may be leaving us, Barbara, but we are not going to let you go,” the Mayor said.

During the program, David Vierira, chair of the Ball, announced, “As a way for us to keep a little wicker in the Hyde Park Branch, we are presenting this wicker chair which will remain in the library reading room.”

Wicker was lauded as a “teacher, counselor, community activist, keeper of order, library construction foreperson, traveler, working mother and spouse, entertainer, planner, cajoler, and encourager.”



“Libraries are ladders of knowledge and success, and we have to keep improving them,” Scaccia said. “In just 3 weeks, we’ve seen two brand new libraries open up in the city. In Hyde Park, we have been very lucky and very proud to have Barbara Wicker who has put forth so much effort. You have been awesome to this library.”

### SAVE THE DATE

11<sup>TH</sup> Annual Branch Conference

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Host: Friends of the Mattapan Branch

### COUNT DOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Thursday, August 27, 3 p.m.  
for all entering kindergarteners  
no signup necessary

A 7-year Hyde Park Branch veteran **Josefa Naper**, previously an editor at McGraw-Hill for their construction bulletin *Dodge*, performs a variety of tasks beyond the circulation desk. She has helped select Spanish language books to add to the Hyde Park collection for readers of all levels, and she is on a committee to translate materials into Spanish for Copley. As the cultural director of the Panama Cultural Foreign Language Group of Massachusetts, she works with schools and exhibitions.

“Fast-paced and energetic I am!” says **Monique Coates**. Prior to her 9 years at the Hyde Park Branch, Monique was a shelver at Fields Corner and Codman Square (“it was like a family there”). She enjoys working with computers, a feature many computer-shy patrons especially appreciate.

Previously at the West Roxbury Branch, **Marge Gurney** has served as a library assistant “more years than I can count!” in Hyde Park.

**Carole Brittan** has worked as a part time shelver for 6 ½ years. She likes to read so relishes the opportunity to peek at the books she is returning to the stacks. “Thrillers are my favorite, especially Tess Gerritsen, a local author. It is fun to track the crimes in familiar haunts – there was even one on Enneking Parkway!”

## Greetings Fellow Bibliophiles and Library Lovers!

Don't let my gushing salutation disarm you: this is an extremely treacherous time for libraries.

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library was founded in 1981 to stave off budget cuts which threatened to close the Hyde Park library, and by virtue of their extraordinary effort, they were successful.

Since then, the Friends have contributed immeasurably to the library's growth and expansion. But the most important contribution the Friends make to the library is support for programming. Former Branch Librarian Barbara Wicker has said that without it, much of the library's programming would not be possible.

Now, once again the library is facing enormous economic pressures.

Cuts in the city budget this year have already affected the library. In fact, Barbara's position has not been posted, so the Hyde Park Branch is without a permanent Branch Librarian. The city budget cuts have totaled over a million dollars in losses for the BPL.

The state budget cut prospects are even more grim. The current budget proposal puts the Library of Last Recourse funding at the statutory level of 50 cents per capita, a cut of over 3 million dollars.

Overall, the loss of revenue from last year to this year due to both city and state budget cuts could be close to 4.5 million dollars.

Such a significant loss of revenue gravely imperils the library's high standards and goals: as BPL president Amy Ryan recently reminded us, “The Library's four priorities [are] (1) Advancement of Learning, (2) Access to BPL Resources Most in Demand, (3) Libraries as Community Gathering Places, and (4) Programs and Services that Help People during these Economic Times.”

I'm sure you will agree with me that the thought of a future without libraries is dismal beyond belief. Yet it is happening all across America. Please join me in making sure it doesn't happen here. ***Only through your membership and active participation can we again succeed in saving the library.***

Good health and long life to the library and to each of us.

Dr. Charles F. Carroll, President

## “Who’s Taking Care of the Books?”

That was a question from a puzzled child at Shaw’s one day when he saw one of the library assistants shopping.

“Not a surprise,” says Mary Margaret Pitts, acting branch librarian. “Our wonderful library assistants are the first, and sometimes the only, staff members the public deals with.”

She points out that they are the women who greet you at the circulation desk, process returns and checkouts, direct you to appropriate staff librarians, while handling phone calls and bookings for rooms.

And of course, they are also the frontline computer and printer trouble shooters.

Turn to page 2 to meet these essential staff members of the Hyde Park Branch Library.

We now have an email address where you can send questions and comments:

[friendshplibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:friendshplibrary@yahoo.com)

Please join us at a monthly meeting (first Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.) and at our activities.



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