



# NEWSLETTER

*The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library*

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## WINTER 2007

### Vol. XVIII Issue 1

#### January

**11....**Teen Poetry Slam  
6:30 p.m.

**16....**Adult Book  
Discussion: *The Kite Runner* 10:30 a.m.

**20....**Winter Art Show  
Reception 2-4 p.m.

**27....**Friends Annual  
Winter Musical 2 p.m.

#### February

**3....**African Head Wrap  
Workshop with Imani of  
the House of Tafari 2 p.m.

**20....**Adult Book  
Discussion 10:30 a.m.

#### March

**3....**Third Annual  
Bookmark Ball 8-11 p.m.

**20....**Adult Book  
Discussion 10:30 a.m.

**31....**Annual Meeting  
1:30 p.m.

#### April

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

## Warm Your Winter at the Bookmark Ball

by David Vieira

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library are planning the Third Annual Bookmark Ball. Save the date, March 3, for a most enjoyable evening.

Held at the Hyde Park Library, this fundraising event is designed not only to restore artwork that the library owns but also to assist in adding to the collection of art and books, and to provide support to the local artist community. Previous events have funded the restoration of the tapestry outside Weld Hall and of the portrait of Altheus Blake hanging in the "living room."

This year's event will also celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library.

The Bookmark Ball will be held on Saturday, March 3, from 8 to 11 p.m. With their admission tickets (\$25 in advance, \$35 at the door), attendees will enjoy a festive evening of music,

dancing, and light refreshments. A cash wine and beer bar will be available.

The organizers are also accepting contributions at higher levels; these are partly tax deductible. Donors (\$100) will receive two complimentary tickets, Sponsors (\$250), four tickets, and Benefactors (\$500+), six tickets. A Bookmark Ball program book will list all of the donors. Advertising space in the booklet may also be purchased. Contact Dave Vieira at (781) 446-7889 in order to arrange a contribution and booklet listing.

Formal invitations will be mailed to all members of the Friends of the Hyde Park Branch early in 2007. Tickets may be purchased at the library desk after February 1.

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us at the Bookmark Ball on March 3!

## Hyde Park Branch Library Hosts E.S.O.L Program

by Kathy Adams

The buzz of a variety of accents emerges from Weld and Menino Halls three days a week since the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes moved here this fall from their former home in the Municipal Building.

Lorrie Anderson and Amy Murrett each teach a group of students in the program which is managed by Jewish Vocational Services under contract with the Department of Education. The program is designed to help students improve their English speaking and writing skills.

Students learn about the program in a variety of ways: flyers in community centers, church announcements, and most often, by word of mouth. After an intake evaluation, they are assigned to one of three levels depending on their current proficiency.

Lorrie and Amy organize their three hour classes with a variety of tasks. On a recent day, students in one class were doing an oral map exercise focusing on the northern tier of states as they studied

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### Chess and Checkers with Charlie

Tuesdays 2-6

Saturdays 12:30-4:30

# Beauty at the Hyde Park Branch Library

by Kathy Adams

Not only does Hyde Park's library boast of architectural awards and a lively variety of offerings on its schedule, it also features beauty and life in the plants and art shows integrated among the books year round.

Meet Valentino Alba (not surprisingly born on February 14, but known to all as Tinno). He is an artist working in four media, the president of the Hyde Park Art Association, and the volunteer gardener at the Branch. Born in the Philippines, Tinno emigrated to the United States after working for the Peace Corps.

Come to the library most Mondays at noon and join Tinno as he moves through the stacks on each level to tend to the plants. The large glass windows in the library addition provide the perfect light for a variety of species, flowering and green. A jade plant, geraniums, and a weeping fig are just a few standouts on a dull December day.

Some of the plants are seasonal, and many are permanent; some were purchased by the Friends, while others have been cultivated from plants in Tinno's home garden. All are flourishing under his regular attention.

A retired Department of Justice employee, Tinno currently serves as the president of the Hyde Park Art Association. His goals in this office have been to increase the number of members from all of Hyde Park's ethnic and racial groups, and to provide exhibition opportunities for all artists in the association.

Helping achieve the latter goal, the Hyde Park Branch Library is now the site for four quarterly exhibitions each year. Tinno sends out an "artist's call," then arranges the submissions in a pleasing display throughout the library. Many media, such as photography, water colors, pastels, and sculptures, enhance the walls and stacks, and of course some of the artworks are available for purchase.

Self-taught as both an artist (poetry, photography, bonsai, and jewelry) and a gardener, Tinno relishes the opportunity to help others discover and display their own artistic talents.

The Winter Exhibition will be on display from January through March with an Opening Reception scheduled for January 20.

## E.S.O.L. Program

(continued from page 1)

United States geography while improving their English pronunciation. In the other class, participants discussed a reading they had done for homework. Lorrie and Amy say that it is a pleasure to teach these adults who are so determined to learn English and to share experiences from their own varied lives.

During a class break, many students were eager to talk about the course. Included in the group were Vaia (Greece); Nadine, Volel, and Ludnic (Haiti); Sayed (Sudan); Francisco and Ronal (El Salvador); Lidiane (Brazil); and Yujie (China).

Most learned about the program through friends, and all participate to improve English fluency. They say it will lead to

greater job success. However Vaia added, with much agreement from the others, that achieving better communication in all areas of her life is important. These new American residents want to understand and be understood at doctors' appointments, during business transactions, and in conversations with native speakers.

Eager to learn English and to become citizens, their only suggestions were that the advanced class should meet even more frequently, and that the citizenship preparation classes should be more widely available.

What is the best aspect of the program? All agree: the teachers!

### **FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING**

**Everyone is welcome.**

Celebrate with the winners!

Friend of Year, Postcard Contest

**March 31, 1:30 p.m. Menino Hall**

### **ANNUAL WINTER MUSICAL**

Reprise the days of Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, and Jimmy Durante with Norm Conrad's Mini Minstrels Show.

**January 27 2 p.m. Menino Hall**

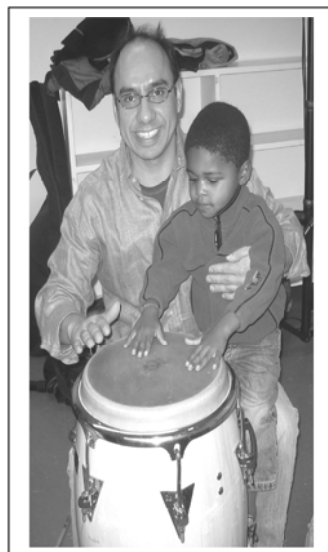
## Jazz on Wheels Captivates Young Hyde Park Branch Patrons

Berklee faculty members Jon Hazilla, Matthew Nicholl, Ron Mahdi, John Baboian, Ernesto Diaz, and Mikael Ringquist performed in Menino Hall on December 2, joined by the singer Abria with her five minute rap on the history of jazz.

(photos by Mary Margaret Pitts)

More than 30 people of all ages enjoyed the concert and had a hands-on opportunity to play the instruments afterwards.

The Berklee School of Music offers these free performances to help keep alive Boston's rich jazz tradition.



### From the Librarian's Desk:

From the beginning in 1981, the mission of the Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library has been to support the Library that has been serving the community since 1873. They were most fortunate to have among their earliest members a professional printer (active) and a public relations writer (retired). Their newsletter – chatty, informative, quirky- helped to spread the word of our activities, accomplishments, and concerns. During the many years of the building project, the newsletter kept the public informed and involved.

The first years of the newsletter occurred well before computers were available – “cut and paste” meant just that! When the two originators moved on, publication ceased. Although today's technology provides a new way to create a newsletter, it is hardly less work. When a new volunteer agreed to take on this task, with technical help provided by another new member, we were thrilled and hope you will be pleased as well. And so, to the printer and the writer – Bob Smith and the late John Antoniazzi, and the new editor and her technical assistant, Kathy Adams and Marie-Claire Dumornay, a salute to the old and the new and many, many thanks.

Barbara Wicker  
Branch Librarian

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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](http://www.bpl.org/branches)

## From the President

It is wonderful to again see the Newsletter of the Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library (FHPBL). A big thank you to Kathy Adams and to her committee who have worked hard to bring back this source of information and sharing.

The Friends have been holding book sales and sponsoring library programs for children and adults for 25 years. It must be a great organization because some of the original members are still active!

Our newest activity is a Postcard contest. The winning postcards will be printed and sold at the library. There is an entry form with this newsletter. Look for more information at the library.

by Victoria Gall

As President, I invite you to volunteer with us in making the library an exciting place to be. We need help with fund raising events like the book sales and the Bookmark Ball, and with planning educational programs and entertainment for the community. We have plenty of ideas, but we don't have enough people to implement them. We hope YOU can help!

## Become Involved!

- \* Leave a message for Vicky Gall at the library checkout desk.
- \* Email Vicky at [v.gall@yahoo.com](mailto:v.gall@yahoo.com).
- \* Attend a board meeting at 6:30 on the first Thursday of each month.

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