



# NEWSLETTER

*The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library*

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**WINTER 2008**

**Vol. XIX Issue 1**

## **January**

- 14....**Financial Aid Workshop 5:30 p.m.  
**15....**Adult Book Discussion 10:30 a.m.  
**26....**Friends Annual Winter Musical 2 p.m.  
**29....**Henna Tattoos for Teens 3:30 p.m.

## **February**

- 7....**Friends board meeting, Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.  
**19....**Adult Book Discussion 10:30 a.m.  
**23....**"Ancestral Waters" Black History Month Concert 2 p.m.

## **March**

- 1....**Fourth Annual Bookmark Ball 8-11 p.m.  
**3....**Deadline for postcard contest  
**6....**Friends board meeting, Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.  
**18....**Adult Book Discussion 10:30 a.m.  
**29....**Annual Meeting 1:30 p.m.

## **April**

- 3....**Friends board meeting, Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.  
**15....**Adult Book Discussion 10:30 a.m.

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The children's story hours will resume in February; check at the library for the dates and times.

## **Hyde Park Branch Library Accepts Generous Gift**

Although the First Congregational Church is gone, its presence in Hyde Park lives on, thanks to a generous grant that its members made to the Hyde Park Branch Library.

During the summer, Friends of the HPBL secretary JoAnn McMillin learned from neighbors who were congregation members that after it closed, the church would be disbursing its assets and was interested in making grants in Hyde Park.

Subsequently, a committee of Friends members worked with Branch Librarian Barbara Wicker on the grant proposal. Pointing out that "like the First Congregational Church, the Hyde Park Library has been serving the community since the 1870s," a grant was requested to augment and expand literary, cultural, and educational offerings at the Library.

Thus it was with deep appreciation that the Library received this letter in mid-October:

"On May 20, 2007, the First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Massachusetts held its final worship service in our beloved sanctuary. The following week the church building was sold and the proceeds from that sale are now able to be disbursed. It was requested by a church member that your organization be remembered. Please accept this gift from us and know that we find great comfort in giving it to you. May God continue to bless you in your wonderful endeavors."

The Board of Directors of the Friends has been discussing specific uses for the \$10,000 gift. More suggestions from the library users are most welcome!

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

## **Fourth Annual Bookmark Ball**

The HPBL Bookmark Ball Committee is pleased to announce that Boston Public Library trustee and Citywide Friends co-founder Berthe M. Gaines has agreed to be the honorary chair of this year's Ball on March 1.

Mrs. Gaines has served with distinction as a trustee since 1984 and played a key role in the Friends library movement in Boston. Along with Hyde Parkers John Thomson, Bob Smith, Dan Driscoll and others, she was instrumental in forming the Citywide Friends and has always been a strong supporter of the neighborhood branches.

This year's special honorees are Adult

Librarian Virginia Lyons, who is retiring, and Children's Librarian Mary Margaret Pitts, another long-standing HPBL staffer, who has accepted a position at the Copley Square Library.

Enjoy a splendid evening at the Hyde Park branch on Saturday, March 1, from 8-11. DJ Patricia "Sounds by Tricia" Gervais will entertain the revelers and crank up the dance floor.

Light refreshments, cash bar (beer/wine), and silent auction items will be available. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Net proceeds benefit the HPBL Fund for the Arts.

# Who Is Coming to the Hyde Park Branch Library?

## TommeY in Residence

Local artist TommeY will be in the Children's Room during school vacation week, from Tuesday, February 19, through Friday, February 22, 12 noon to 1:30 each day.

Attention postcard contest contestants: TommeY will be happy to help you develop your unique ideas. Please bring supplies (crayons, pencils, markers, paints) if you have them.

TommeY (Thomas C. Seggers Jr.) is the founder and president of Artists-At-Large. An active participant in the vibrant Hyde Park arts scene for six years, AaL sponsors visual art exhibits and jazz and innovative musical performances featuring "emerging, established and unknown artists from down the street and around the world."

To learn more about TommeY and AaL, visit [artistsatlargeinc.org](http://artistsatlargeinc.org).

## Black History Month with Beatrice Greene

During Black History Month, former HPBL staff member Beatrice Greene will return in a concert performance entitled "Ancestral Waters: Musical Inspirations." Accompanied by a bass player, she will play the piano and sing spirituals.

A graduate of Berklee with a major in piano performance, she also has studied composition at the New England Conservatory. Beatrice seeks to "paint powerful images using a musical palette of African rhythms, swing, blues, groove, Latin rhythms, and the pulse of the spirituals." One listener described her sound as "pure joybells."

Join Beatrice on Saturday, February 23, in Menino Hall at 2 p.m. for this concert sponsored by the Friends of the HPBL.

## Two Times with Tricia

The Friends of the HPBL are pleased to announce two opportunities for the public to enjoy the popular singer/emcee/disc jockey Patricia Gervais.

First is the Annual Winter Musical Program to be held this year on Saturday, January 26, at 2 p.m. in Menino Hall. In "Sounds by Tricia," she will present an interactive musical treat for all ages and guarantees that she will have the whole family singing along with her!

Then on March 1, Tricia will don her singing DJ hat as she entertains the revelers at the Bookmark Ball and keeps them dancing throughout the evening.

For many years the manager and lead singer for the Boston dance band Celebration, Tricia has performed at venues throughout New England, including the Grand Hotel in North Conway, NH, Ritz on the Roof at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Boston, and Sculler's Jazz Club in Cambridge.

For a preview, check out her website [soundsbytricia.com](http://soundsbytricia.com) where you can hear her singing some of her personal favorites.

## Paul Nolan on Display

During the Hyde Park Open Studios weekend in December, a special tribute exhibit of works by Paul Nolan was mounted in the Library. The beloved local artist, who died recently, specialized in landscapes.

The Shurtleff family, knowing of Branch Librarian Barbara Wicker's wish for works by local artists, generously donated a Nolan sunset painting. Its striking red hues set on a snowy scene make it a both restful and colorful addition to the library's collection.

### FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

**Everyone is welcome.**

Celebrate with the winners!

Friend of Year, Postcard Contest

**March 29, 1:30 p.m. Menino Hall**

### CHESS WITH CHARLIE

**Tuesdays: 2:30-5:30**

**Saturdays: 12:30-4:30**

## Farewell to Virginia Lyons, Adult Librarian

The young woman arrived at the reference desk armed with the automobile section of the Sunday newspaper and a card listing details about the new car she wants to purchase. Immediately Adult Librarian Virginia Lyons turned on her computer to retrieve the desired pricing information. When a printout emerged blank, she reverted to the low-tech pen and paper. On one of her last days at the Hyde Park Branch Library, she seamlessly merged old ways and new to assist a patron.

A Boston native, Virginia grew up in Lower Mills and earned her BA from Emmanuel College. In graduate school at UMass Amherst, she studied Latin American history, then worked in the library there when she knew she would be marrying and leaving Amherst before finishing her degree,

These Amherst experiences converged upon her return to Boston. Having loved the library work, she enrolled at Simmons and earned a Master of Science degree in the field. She especially liked the traditional courses such as history of science and history of literature offered then.

An unexpectedly challenging Rare Books course was a favorite. Offered in summer school, it had a reputation as a “gut” (easy A). However a visiting professor took over that year, and Virginia was one of only five students to return for the second class. Required to design an original project, Virginia drew on her interest in Latin American history and worked with the “chap books” (diaries) of the conquistadors, written with brown ink in Spanish and replete with tiny drawings.

Her career in the BPL system has spanned more than 38 years, including 30 in Hyde Park. She is an enthusiastic advocate of the vastly expanded research opportunities that technological advances in libraries have enabled. HPBL visitors to the reference desk and adult book discussion group members can be grateful to an early mentor of Virginia who steered her career path from cataloging to interactive work.

While she will miss the Library, Virginia and her husband Bob look forward to celebrating their fortieth anniversary by traveling to Vienna in June for a week of opera.

## Meet Emily Perloff, New Children's Librarian

She directed a smile to the child who was staring solemnly from a chair at the edge of a group of 3-year olds, and after a full minute, the little girl shyly smiled back. Emily Perloff was on her first day of training as the new Children's Librarian at the Hyde Park Branch Library, and her eyes lit up on the quiet school day morning whenever a child or daycare group descended the stairs.

A native of the Philadelphia area, Emily earned a bachelor's degree in biology with strong minors in African studies and chemistry at Oberlin College. After moving to Boston, she engaged in bio-chemical research at the BU Medical Center for a few years. However, she had worked part time in libraries since her high school days and missed the constant interaction with people that is central to a librarian's work.

After completing a Master's degree in Library and Information Sciences at Simmons College, Emily began her professional career as a general reference librarian at Copley. Asked to take temporary positions in the Children's Room, first at the Mattapan branch and then at Grove hall, she discovered the delights of working with young people in libraries and thus eagerly applied for the Hyde Park job when it was posted after reassignment of Mary Margaret Pitts.

Emily was also attracted to this branch because of its city wide reputation “which I've heard from many people – and not just librarians!” In addition to its excellent facility, collection, and programming, “I especially like how integrated it is into the community,” she said.

Appreciative of the legacy she is inheriting from Mary Margaret Pitts, Emily will be resuming the popular children's story hours after her official start date, January 28, and she will be planning the programming for spring and summer children's events.

Before implementing new initiatives, she wants to get to know the kids who patronize the library and to solicit ideas from them and from their parents and from daycare providers who utilize the Children's Room. She is particularly interested in developing programming for the upper elementary-age children whose interests are different from both the younger ones and the young adults already well-served. And (much to the delight of the Newsletter Editor!), she will be contributing “good read” recommendations in future issues.



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**FRIENDS OF THE HYDE  
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LIBRARY**

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

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

## Second Annual Postcard Contest

The Friends of the HPBL are again sponsoring a postcard contest open to all students ages 5 to 18 who go to school in Hyde Park or who use the Hyde Park Branch Library.

Submissions must be on official entry forms which are available in local schools and at the Library. A parent/guardian signature is required, and there is a limit of one entry per person.

The deadline for entries is Monday, March 3. Awards will be given on March 29 at the annual meeting of the Friends. Three winners will each receive a framed postcard and a \$25 gift certificate to an art supply store.

## Henna Tattoos for Teens

Nimmi Sehgal is offering free temporary tattoos on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Library (snow day, Jan. 30). When the henna paste dries and flakes off, it leaves a reddish brown mark on the skin that lasts about 2 weeks. A parent/guardian signature is required.

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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