



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library

Something for Everyone at the Hyde Park Branch

New Computers for All Patrons

Thanks to a grant from former Hyde Parker Holly McGrath through the Richard and Susan Smith Foundation, all adult, young adult, and children's computers have been replaced at the Hyde Park Branch Library.

The grant also provided one additional computer each in the children's and YA rooms. And the grant funds two instructors who will provide training for adult patrons (children and teens are generally pretty savvy with computer technology!). The part time instructors, one from Jewish Volunteer Services, the other a BPL staffer who is fluent in Creole, will begin in early spring.

Movies and More for Adults

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the HP Branch Library, Liz Smith, adult librarian announces a new afternoon movie series. The movies are screened at 2:30 each Friday in Menino Hall.

Launched in January with the 5 blockbuster nominees from 1958, the series continues in February with 4 romantic favorites. In March, the series will feature Irish classics in honor of St. Patrick's Day, while April's films will be musicals.

For its February selection, the new adult book discussion group, which meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., will join The Big Read, a national initiative by the National Endowment for the Arts. This year's title is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston.

The book discussion at Hyde Park is on February 23, and on the following Saturday at 2:30 in Menino Hall the movie version will be presented. All are welcome to attend.

From the Children's Room

In addition to the weekly story hours (toddlers: Tuesdays at 10:30; pre-schoolers: Wednesdays at 10:30), children's librarian Mary Margaret Pitts announces several interactive performances with guest artists.

2/17 Tues. 12:30 Spectrum Theatre acting workshop, age 11 up (sign-up required)

2/18 Wed. 11:00 Abraham Lincoln in person! (reenactor will also take questions)

2/20 Fri. 10:30 Judy Pancoast "Read Your Way Across the USA" (songs)

2/24 Tues. 10:30 "Winter Wonderland" (Rosalita's) animal marionettes

3/31 Tues. 10:30 Sue Eaton "Concert for Children" (song, dance)

COMING IN MARCH AND APRIL Fridays at 2:30, March 13 through April 17: Science drop-in demonstrations of simple principles and experiments by a high school mentor

In the Teen Corner

At one table, 4 teens are diligently working on homework. Several more are clustered around the new computers doing research or playing games. A few puzzle over their next chess moves, and the rest are socializing quietly. Sam Pharo (a BPL "floater" brought in when Clayton Cheever was promoted to another BPL position) praises the patrons. "Even though the space is small and the room is cold this winter, these kids are so at ease with each other. It's great working with them."

WINTER 2009

Vol. XX Issue 1

February

5....Friends board meeting,
Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.

6....*An American in Paris*
(film) 2:30 p.m.

13....*Casablanca* 2:30 p.m.

14.... 54th at the Library
2 p.m.

17....Adult Bk Disc. *The
Woman in White* 10:30 a.m.

20....*Breakfast at Tiffany's*
(film) 2:30 p.m.

23....Adult Book Dis. *Eyes
Watching God* 6:30 p.m.
24

27....*It Happened One
Night*
(film) 2:30 p.m.

28....*Eyes Were Watching
God* (film) 2:30 p.m.

March

2....Small Business Admin.
workshop 6:30 p.m.

5....Friends board meeting,
Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.

23....Adult Bk. Discussion
6:30 p.m.

24....Adult Bk. Discussion
10:30 a.m.

28....Annual Meeting
1:30 p.m.

31....Sue Eaton "Concert
for Children" 10:30 a.m.

April

2....Friends board meeting,
Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.

4....Founders Day
Bookmark Ball 8-11 p.m.

21....Adult Bk. Discussion
10:30 a.m.

27....Adult Bk. Discussion
6:30 p.m.

May

7....Friends Board meeting,
Menino Hall 6:30 p.m.

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

Founders' Day Bookmark Ball

Save the Date: Saturday, April 4, 8-11

In recognition of the library's important role in the Hyde Park community, the fourth annual winter party will now be known as the Founders' Day Bookmark Ball.

Hyde Park was developed as a town by the Twenty Associates organized by Alpheus Perley Blake in 1868 (it was the last of the independent towns to be annexed by Boston in 1912). The first public library opened in Everett Square just 5 years after the town's founding, and it moved into its present location in 1899.

Central to this year's event are two important members of the Boston Public Library system. Amy Ryan, the new president of the Boston system, will serve as honorary chair and is looking forward to meeting the attendees. The honored guest this year is Barbara Wicker, the Branch Librarian for over 30 years, who is retiring on February 27.

The Founders' Day Bookmark Ball will feature live music (dancing optional!), a cash bar with wine and beer, and a variety of tasty hors d'oeuvres and sweets in the library.

Letter from Friends President Victoria Gall

This is my last Newsletter article as president of the Friends of the Hyde Park Library, and I want to make the work for the next set of officers as easy as possible. As believers in and users of the public library, you know that the need for library services will be greater in 2009, but that local and state funds will be reduced.

What can you do about this? Well, here are 3 choices: purchase something that patrons are seeking at the library, make a monetary donation, or give of your time.

If you received this Newsletter, then you are either a current Friends member (paid for 2008-2009), have been a member but have not renewed your membership for a few years, or you are an honorary/complimentary member. If you haven't returned your renewal/donation slip, please do so because we depend on this income.

One way we can lessen our costs is to cut back on mailings. Our 2009-2010 goal is to send an electronic copy of the newsletter to those with e-mail accounts, but that will take many volunteer hours to implement. Could you help us out on

this or on other Friends tasks which keep the organization going (fund raising, book sorting, baking, special projects, etc.)?

The talents, interests, and work skills of the members of the Hyde Park community are very diverse. I can just imagine the range of programs we could offer at the library led by people like you. Do you have an interesting hobby, could you run a craft workshop, teach a dance class, share a travel experience, talk about your profession with teens, run a history or geography club, lead a health discussion, offer a tour of your business, tell stories...?

Please take a few minutes to think about ways that you can give of your time to your community. No idea is too fanciful. Please help us to ensure that the HP Library continues to be a lively and interesting place to enjoy and learn. E-mail me with your suggestions (v.gall@yahoo.com) or leave them at the library circulation desk.

My sincere thank you to the board members and "friends" who have helped me on projects during the last few years. I appreciate all your efforts.

Chess with Charlie

Tues & Thurs: 2:30 - 5

Saturdays: noon to 4:30

Business Sponsors

**My Grandma's Coffee Cakes
Ron's Ice Cream and Bowling
Serino's Italian Foods**

FAREWELL TO BARBARA

"It is a pleasure every day I walk in," she said, speaking of the award winning building expanded during her tenure, and of the people who work in or patronize the Hyde Park Branch.

But after three weeks in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand, Barbara Wicker will return for her final two weeks as the Branch Librarian from February 14-27, ending a 40 year career in the Boston Public Library System.

Born in Cincinnati, Barbara grew up in Cleveland, earned a BA with a double major in French and Library Science at Syracuse University, then completed her Masters in Library Science program at Case Western University.

"I wanted to move east – Boston, New York City, or Washington. The BPL was hiring, so I never got beyond my first stop!"

She began her career in August of 1968 as the young adult librarian at the Roslindale Branch where she worked with Virginia Lyons, then a pre-professional children's librarian, and later, of course, long-time adult librarian at the Hyde Park Branch.

After a year, she was transferred to the South Boston Branch, and the following summer, just before a trip to London, she was told she was being moved again, this time to Hyde Park.

"I loved the teens I was working with in Southie, Barbara said, "and there I was in central London constantly seeing signs for "Hyde Park" reminding me of the move I didn't feel ready to make!"

Regrets did not linger for long as Barbara served first as young adult librarian, then as acting Branch Librarian, before achieving her final position as Hyde Park Branch Librarian around the time of her marriage to John Wicker in 1978.

Barbara has relished many activities and accomplishments during her career. She is proud of the library's partnership with the Hyde Park Arts Initiative. "It has been a personal and professional dream come true, the coming together of various organizations in the community." She has also been instrumental in helping to launch the Business Membership drive with the Friends this winter.

But for the career highlight, "of course, it would have to be the building of the addition. It was amazing to work with so many outstanding people, each of whom was essential to the success of the project: the people of Hyde Park, the Friends, the architects, the liaisons from the city."

Doubling the size of the library was not the only change during Barbara's career. "The profession was different when I started. My generation bridged the shift from an emphasis on print materials to the more heavily computer-oriented information services. However, literacy has never been more important than it is now, and a professional staff is essential to assist the public in accessing these services."

As a new financial crisis looms over all city services, Barbara muse about a previous one in 1981. "That was when the Friends of the Hyde Park Library group was established. The city was actually planning to close all the branches, and the Friends were instrumental in exerting great pressure to keep them open."

Although she will be leaving her position on February 27, she will not be abandoning an active life. She will return from her beloved Florida retreat for the Founders' Day Bookmark Ball on April 4, and embark on volunteer activities she has already lined up: shelving picture books at the Pierce School in Brookline, answering phones at the Newton Historical Society, and finishing the set-up and organization of the local history room at the HP Library. She looks forward to being an active member of the HP Historical Society.

"And of course, I will continue to be relentless in my pursuit of an original Enneking painting!"

Ode to Barbara

by Claire Pauley

(past president, Friends of the HP Library)

Our dear Barbara is leaving us soon
If I was musical, I'd write a short tune.

But since I am not, I'll pen a small rhyme.
And we'll remember her with happy memories through all
time.

She has given so much to the library with programs and
shows so smart.
She's been a legend there and has left her special mark.

So many have had her assistance (and sometimes
her special quieting look),

And she can tell you the stories in any library book

Both adults and children from her have readily
learned,

But now she's leaving for travel and rest, a
retirement well earned.

As *The Music Man* ought to have sung,

Madame Librarian, we love you and will miss you!



President:
Victoria Gall
Vice President:
Ken Farr
Secretary:
Patricia Ryan
Treasurer:
Mary Ellen Berman
Membership Chair:
John Wentworth
Newsletter
Kathy Adams
Board Members:
Charles Carroll
Miki DePeiza
Alice Kane

**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

Exciting Business Membership Opportunity by Charles Carroll

There has been an enthusiastic response to the Friends Business Membership Drive launched in January. Resounding endorsements have come from Ron Covitz, owner of local business Ron's Ice Cream & Bowling, Lucretia Serino, CEO of citywide business Serino's Italian Foods, and Robert Katz, president of the national business My Grandma's Coffee Cakes of New England. Each has committed to sponsoring programs and events.

The \$25 membership fee includes listing in the newsletter and sponsorship opportunities. We look forward to enlisting the help of the entire Hyde Park business community in forging a new, dynamic relationship between the library and locally based businesses.

JOIN US!

**FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1:30 p.m.**

Speaker: STEPHEN PULEO
Dark Tide:
The Great Molasses Flood of 1919

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

friendshplibrary@yahoo.com

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Boston, MA
Permit No. 57409

Address Correction Requested

Return Postage Guaranteed