



Friends of the Brookline Library
 361 Washington Street
 Brookline, Ma 02445
 friendsofbrooklinelibrary@gmail.com

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Friends of the Brookline Library 2016 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report on another wonderful year for the Friends. This season we have sponsored two very special new initiatives which you will read about below: the first year of the Library's Artist-in-Residence program, and the launching from the Putterham branch of a new Assistive Technology Program designed to address the needs of those with learning differences and disabilities. Along with the very popular gaming collection that took off in November, we have been able to support each of these significant new programs, together with other programming and special events that you have come to expect from the Friends. We thank you as always for your continued support and look forward to seeing you June 8 at our Annual Meeting.

Yours truly, Nancy Nitikman



Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 7:00pm
Main Library Hunneman Hall

Guest Speaker
B.A. Shapiro
Author

As B.A. Shapiro describes her background, "in my previous career incarnations I have directed research projects for a residential substance abuse facility, worked as a systems analyst/statistician, headed the Boston office of a software development firm, and served as an adjunct professor teaching sociology and creative writing. I like being a novelist the best." Author of the best selling *The Art Forger*, and most recently *The Muralist*, we agree with Barbara that we, too, like her being a novelist the best! With a starry cast from the art world of the 1940's, including Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, and William de Kooning, *The Muralist* is a "masterfully imagined work about art, war, family, truth and freedom." (Lisa Genova, author of *Still Alice*). Join us on Wednesday, June 8, to hear Barbara talk about this latest work and her "favorite" life as a novelist!

Short Business Meeting at 6:30pm

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For several years now we have had made a continuing and significant commitment to funding professional development for the library staff. Our grant program allows any staff member to apply for funding to attend appropriate conferences and seminars throughout the country that will contribute to the staff member's growth as a professional. It has been very gratifying for us to witness the expansion of this program, as more and more staff members from all three branches have availed themselves of the opportunity offered. This past year was a peak year for the program: there were 23 conference attendees in total, in locations as far afield as San Francisco, Charlotte NC, Denver, Portland OR, and Chicago. Sample feedback from a Coolidge librarian: "This program allowed me to re-frame the many challenging conversations I've had with non-English speakers. Instead of seeing language barriers as a difficulty I now see them as opportunities to reach out and assist members of the community; to enhance our role as a community service." Another reports on learning of the latest trends in collection development, as well as prospects for automated sorting of returned materials and alternatives to OverDrive for eBooks. Not only have we witnessed the value to individual staff members of attending such conferences, but more broadly, there is sharing of newfound knowledge among colleagues back in Brookline, and the ultimate benefit redounds to all of us as patrons of our Brookline Library.

ON THE ROAD

We hope you enjoyed seeing - and "checking out", in all ways - the Library's sparkly orange Book Bike last year, compliments of the Friends! In 2015 our intrepid staff bikers took to the road for the first time, circulating over 100 items, issuing dozens of new library cards, and meeting "tons of new people who were excited" to see them! They kicked off the season by turning heads in the Brookline Bike Parade and spent the next few months making scheduled stops and surprise visits to locales around town. New friends were made at the Brookline Senior Center, Goddard House, Senior Communities of Brookline, Devotion School Park and the Brookline Farmers' Market, among other sites. Keep an eye on this season's schedule, and in any event, don't forget to wave!

<http://www.brooklinelibrary.org/programs/bookbike>.



CELEBRATE MUSIC 2016

The Friends are pleased to be sponsoring Celebrate Music 2016 as part of this year's Arts Brookline celebration. A spectrum of musical performances is scheduled through May and June, all at the Main Library and all free to the public. Classical, jazz, country, pop and rock are all being offered this year. In case you miss your favorite group, all performances are being taped and broadcast by Brookline Interactive Group. So keep an eye on the calendar and catch your favorite musical genres, or try something new! Go to artsbrookline.org for details.

LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE

The Friends are very proud to be supporting this new program, “Libraries Are For Everyone”, offered by the Putterham branch. The goals for the program are threefold. To show disabled individuals and their families what the library has to offer, both as a community space and as a technology and information resource. To provide the public with access to more expensive apps which they may wish to test out before committing to purchase, or which they may be unable to afford. And finally, to promote literacy and serve as a resource for patrons with learning differences and disabilities. The program makes available to the community special iPad applications and training that features assistive technology, support for disabilities, and literacy development. Three new iPads and an iPad mini have been purchased and are loaded with the unique apps focused on this user group; and these devices and apps are now available for standard 4 week patron circulation or, by request, can be used in the library. In conjunction with Easter Seals of Massachusetts, the branch is also offering several technology workshops to train patrons in the use of the devices and the apps. Further, Putterham will be hosting several public presentations regarding various disabilities and the community supports available to this population. Go to the Library’s website to read in detail about this wonderful program.

<http://www.brooklinelibrary.org/programs/libraries-are-for-everyone>

GAME COLLECTION

As promised, with the seed money provided by the Friends, last November saw the launching of the Library’s new Game Collection. The collection has skyrocketed in popularity since then, and patrons are able to enjoy their favorite board, card or dice games both in the library and in the comfort of their own homes. Also available for check-out are new and popular video games for all the latest consoles, including Playstation 4, Xbox One, and WiiU. And role playing game manuals and books about games can also be checked out for use at home. If you haven’t already, do try any or all of the most popular - including Laser Maze, Equilibrio, Katamino, Game of Life, Gobblet Gobblers, and more!

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

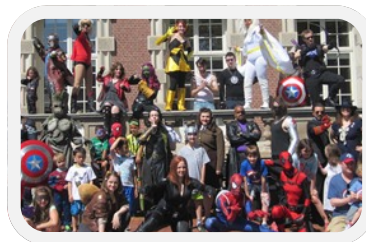
As you have probably heard, the Friends are very pleased to be sponsoring this pilot year of the Library’s Artist-in-Residence Program. A call for proposals went out early in 2016 and just now, as you are reading this Newsletter, the multi-round jury process is approaching a decision as to the selected proposal. We anticipate that the chosen artist(s) will be in place at the Main Library by mid-June, and will continue in residence here through November! During these months there will be various programs and events to facilitate community interaction with the artist. We look forward to this AIR program challenging and expanding the community’s idea of what a public library is and can be, and further establishing our Library as a hub for creative expression and engagement with the arts. Keep up to date with the excitement at <http://brooklinepubliclibraryair.org/>

Friends Used Book Sale

As you probably know, the Friends operate a most eclectic and popular used book sale at the Main Library, as well as “junior” versions at both Coolidge and Putterham branches. At our Main booksale you will find virtually all categories of books - hardback and paperback fiction, “golden oldies” dating back to the late 19th and early 20th century, all types of literature (classics, theater, poetry), non-fiction of every type - history, biography, religion, philosophy, business, sports, foreign language, self-help, and more. You will also find all types of CD’s, VHS movies and sets of educational courses, and DVD’s of your favorite movies and TV series. Further, we always have unique “like new” gift books and other specials for bargain prices. If you’ve never visited us, you really must! Prices cannot be beat! Follow our weekly specials and news at <http://www.brooklinelibrary.org/get/friends> or check our tweets at [BrooklineLibFriends @BrooklineFLib](https://twitter.com/BrooklineFLib)

CHILDREN & TEEN PROGRAMS

The Friends sponsored most children and teen programming this past year, to great success. The Children’s Summer Reading Program included 18 special programs throughout the three branches. Over 125 parents and children turned out at Main for everyone’s favorite magician and dog, Greg and Axel, and the monthly craft programs for the Library’s 6 to 8 year old patrons were all great successes. Finally, over 200 people attended the 4th annual Fall Fest this year, which featured a face painter, gourd bowling and refreshments.



The teens enjoyed a fabulous program with M.T. Anderson about his latest book, Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad, which included an extraordinary performance of Shostakovich’s Violin Quartet No. 4. Also, pop culture days featuring Star Wars and both Marvel and DC Superheroes drew in 150-200 fans per event to meet costumed heroes, make crafts, and explore the library with scavenger hunts. And mini-golf at the Library returns with family fun and a cocktail evening for the adult crowd!

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE FRIENDS 2015—2016

Book Bike

Staff Professional Development

Children’s Programs

Teen Programming

Infant Toys & Children's Games

Read & Meet Group

Artist-In-Residence

Staff Luncheon

ESL Conversation Groups

Sister City Library Support

Coolidge Atrium Garden

MLA Membership

Assistive Technology

Putterham Guinea Pigs

Super Reader Program