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Friends of the Brookline  
Public Library  
361 Washington Street  
Brookline, Ma 02445

# ***Friends of the Brookline Public Library***

## ***2018 Newsletter***



### **“Leading Women” Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

Brookline Village Library, 7:00 PM  
Hunneman Hall  
361 Washington Street

Many of you know Susan Quinn as the author of the best-selling *Eleanor and Hick*, the story of the relationship between Eleanor Roosevelt and journalist Lorena “Hick” Hickok. Described as “captivating” (*Harper’s Bazaar*), and “fascinating and gossipy” (*NY Review of Books*), you’ll learn of how Sue came to write this book. But that, of course, is a more recent accomplishment in the varied and peripatetic career we’ll hear about! Prizewinning biographer of other leading women (Marie Curie, Karen Horney), journalist and investigative reporter (*Boston Magazine*, *The Atlantic*), and actress - of yesteryear and today! - join us to hear Sue, our own leading woman, tell of her progression from Ohio mill town youth to present day writer and stage presence. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, June 5, for this engaging evening.

**Short Business Meeting at 6:30pm**

### **NEW LOGO**

Have you noticed the Friends’ new logo?! Board member Judy Mir worked with Brookline-based graphics designer Jill Winitzer, of Winitzer Design ([winitzerdesign.com](http://winitzerdesign.com)), to develop our intriguing new logo. Asked to develop something whimsical that captured the many adventurous projects supported by the Friends’ ongoing book sale, Jill developed a diverse group of waving hands clutching books. We think the new logo conveys the spirit of our community-based activities that serve many different audiences. And to bring a smile every day, do purchase our brand new book bags featuring this charmer!



## Letter from the President

*Dear Friends,*

*This year has been particularly rewarding for the Friends. Our bank balance was high and we weren't shy about spending our funds! Telescopes everywhere, extensive professional development funding for the Library staff, iPads for all, a fabulous Lunar New Year celebration, and a significant commitment towards the pending Coolidge Corner Library renovation are some of the year's highlights. These programs and purchases, along with our annual support of children's, teen, and adult programming, resulted in a record year of financial undertakings by the Friends on behalf of our Library. While we can never predict our future financial health, we're thrilled to report on the success of this season just ending. It's your support that drives the engine, and we thank you, as always, for your continuing generosity and your patronage at our "one-of-a-kind" book sale. We look forward to seeing you on June 5.*

*Yours truly, Nancy Nitikman*

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### VISIT US AT

<https://www.brooklinelibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-brookline-library/>

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### BOOK SALE

If you visit the Brookline Village Library, you surely know of the Friends used book sale. And if you've not been there before, do check it out. Great variety, low low prices, and CDs, DVDs, children's books, jigsaw puzzles, and much more. Brookline readers have wide-ranging taste, and browsers and buyers benefit every day from our donors' reading habits and generosity! This year



we want to give special recognition to two particular donors. First, a great thank you to Newbury Comics, who contacted us out of the blue to offer a voluminous cache of shrink-wrapped CDs and DVDs, as well as a brand new supply of "spinners" - a great "toy" for youngsters and adults! You know we accepted! Secondly, in need of some sturdy design-to-spec bookcases for our workroom, the commercial prices seemed steep. Going on the suggestion from a friend, we contacted Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. What a wonderful job they did for us! The cost of the wood... and some pizzas for lunch?! In both cases, we were the grateful recipients of our community-oriented neighbors and



friends. We offer a heartfelt thank you to each of them, and as always, to all of our donors, patrons, and volunteers.



## TELESCOPES

For some years now the Putterham Library has had one telescope available to be checked out. The good news is it's very popular. The bad news is it's very popular! Patrons have had to wait up to one year to check it out! This year, in order to make this experience more available to all, the Friends were delighted to purchase three more telescopes for the Library's patrons. Now all four are available for checkout for four week loan periods - one each at Putterham and Coolidge Corner Libraries and two at the Brookline Village Library. Our "launch" parties introduced close to 150 friends to our new scopes and the excitement of "skywatching". If you haven't already, we hope you'll check one out and start scanning the skies!

## LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Two hundred revelers descended upon the Coolidge Corner Library this past February to kick off this Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dog! They greatly enjoyed a fantastic performance from the Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy, including Lion Dancing (through the stacks!), kung fu performanc-



es, some "interaction" with the costumes, and even the opportunity to practice kung fu! To satisfy the inevitable appetite from all that activity, the revelers were treated to some tasty dumplings, clementines, and chocolates. Can you feel the energy of the day in the pic? This was the first time the Friends had sponsored this celebration, and we hope it won't be the last!

## IPADS FOR ALL!

You know of our assistive technology program, introduced in 2015/2016 at the Putterham Library, featuring iPads loaded with apps developed for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, and visual and hearing impairments. This program has been going strong at Putterham Library, and now we are thrilled to tell you that you can borrow iPads - for two weeks at a time - at all three Brookline libraries (four at both the Brookline Village and Putterham Libraries, and two at the Coolidge Corner Library)! And, making the best use of these devices for our community, we've now added apps for all audiences! You will find programs for literacy development and healthcare, as well as games, education, and library resources for all. Examples include Lumosity (brain/cognitive training app), Duolingo and Mango Languages (language learning apps), and GarageBand (music production app). Do check out an iPad and see what surprises are in store!



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As you know, we have been deeply committed to professional development for the Library staff for many years now. Early on we saw a small number of staff members, mostly more senior personnel, take advantage of it. But over these last two years, and with our Library Director's enthusiasm, we have seen the number and variety of participants increase significantly. This year our commitment has been to send 18 attendees to relevant conferences and workshops to various US destinations. Also, the program has now touched less experienced personnel. Finally, in each case the person brings back practices, information, and more, that is shared with colleagues throughout the Library. The staff benefits from this program, and so in turn does our Library community.

## ESL AT THE LIBRARY

Our ESL Conversation Groups, active at all Library locations, continue to be an important Friends program. Our students come from all over the world, bringing varying levels of English fluency and cultural backgrounds and experiences. Not only do they have the opportunity to work on "practical, everyday" situations in English but they, along with our volunteer teachers, are exposed to fellow students working through these same daily exercises. The results are rewarding, often humorous, and happily produce a shared and unique experience for students and teachers alike.

**AND FINALLY...** while the Friends sponsored other events and programs this year, let us mention just two more. With Friends' Board Member Dr. Dan Jacobs at the helm, we initiated the "Authors Among Us" program, welcoming Kitty and Mike Dukakis to a full house at Hunneman Hall to hear Kitty discuss her life as an author, her struggle with depression, and their recent efforts to shed light on electroshock therapy. We hope this is just the first of such inspiring events. And finally, because of your support and patronage, we were able to make a significant financial commitment to the Coolidge Corner Library renovation project, which begins soon. We, look forward to the unveiling of our "like new" Library in the not too distant future.

## ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE FRIENDS 2017 - 2018

- **Children's Summer Programs**
- **Staff Professional Development**
- **Read & Meet Group**
- **Coolidge Corner Renovation Donation**
- **Harry Potter Program**
- **Telescopes for Libraries**
- **iPads for Libraries**
- **Volunteer Luncheon**
- **Learn to Knit**
- **Lunar New Year Celebration**
- **Gentle Yoga**
- **Valentine's Day Staff Luncheon**
- **Black History Movies**
- **Lunch Lady Author Visit and Cartoon Workshop**
- **Pi Day Program**