

THE BOOK BYTE

Vol. XIV, No. 3

SPRING 2007

YOU JUST WON 25 GRAND Plus 10 Grand a Year

Say you just won a prize worth \$25,000 initially and an extra \$10,000 per year for four years. Well, the patrons of the Needham Free Public Library won that prize. Last year, Friends of the Needham Public Library funded an innovative program to supplement the library's budget, specifically for printer and copier services.

Working with librarians and outside vendors, a group of Friends, led by Stuart Chandler, put together the program to lease new printers and copiers, and to install stored value cards and a coin tower. The service makes it easier for patrons and librarians alike to print from the library's computers and to make copies of borrowed and personal material.

Startup and maintenance

The Friends' cash outlay was an upfront capital expenditure of \$25,000 to get the equipment installed in time for the opening of our renovated library. The Friends also pay annual expenses of about \$10,000 per year as part of the four-year contract. The fees charged are more than competitive, and they are only priced to allow the Friends to break even on annual expenses.

What's in your wallet?

The Friends closely monitor the program, evaluating it to make improvements and ensure its future availability. Further, Friends' treasurer Keith McClelland dutifully manages the nitty gritty aspects of the program, such as collecting and depositing the coins and keeping the machines

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ONE YEAR—CAUSE TO CELEBRATE

Celebration of the Needham Free Public Library's first birthday on March 31 in the Community Room straddled the memorable dates of the opening of the new and renovated building in 2006. The public entered after ribbon cutting on March 17. Dedication Weekend took place on April 1 and 2.

From 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., the Library Foundation of Needham (LFN), sponsor of the festive event, welcomed birthday guests ranging from carrier-age to the who's-counting category. The birthday cake was decorated with the commemorative design from the birthday invitation sent townwide by the LFN. Roche Brothers generously donated cakes, serving supplies, and bottled water, all very much appreciated. Balloon artist Mr. K delighted children with creations to match their whims.

Some adventures of Winnie the Pooh played on the plasma TV screen, while a laptop computer ran video about the library's rainwater recovery system. The Library Foundation displayed mementoes of other features and programs that it has supported or sponsored. Take-aways included library-themed activities, and information about the Library and the LFN. Here is an excerpt from the **Trivia Quiz: ? 1** *Where is the smallest reading room in the Library?* Another question and some Fun Facts are on page 2. ♦

Read about

Book sale & Committees, page 2

Fill in

A Friend-ly Crossword, page 3

SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND MENTAL HEALTH

When it comes to mental health, there are often more questions than answers. On **Monday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Community Room, the Friends invite the public to a three-part seminar conducted by graduate students in the Division of Medical Sciences at Harvard University. They belong to Science in the News (SITN), a nonprofit group run entirely by graduate students. Its goal is to raise the level of scientific literacy within the general public. The expertise of the presenters at this seminar is in biology. They encourage questions and discussion, with the understanding that they are not physicians, and do not provide medical advice.

In Your Mind or Your Brain?

The introductory topic covers how the brain functions and communicates, how we can study mental illness, and the difficulties in studying it. Presenter Sandra Chow is a fourth year graduate student at Harvard Medical School. She is investigating axon regeneration as applied to spinal cord injury. Her B.S. degree in Biology from M.I.T. includes a minor in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and a minor in Music.

Schizophrenia

The lecture on schizophrenia focuses on what is known about the biological underpinnings of this widely misunderstood disorder. To a lesser extent, it provides an overview of how physicians currently diagnose schizophrenia, and the options for patient treatment.

Presenter Kelly Dakin is a third

continued on page 3

>> APRIL

"What Else It Is," Photography of Eric Myrvaagnes

>> MAY

Creative Works by Needham High School Students

WINTER SALE YIELDS COLD CASH

Sales from the event held on February 3 and 4 totaled \$9,318. This is second only to the Blowout Book Sale, our 2003 finale in the old library. The snap of cold weather encouraged indoor pursuits, with reading apparently high on the list.

Book sale volunteer coordinators Robin Buratowski and Jane Swett join book sale chair Greg Shesko in saying "Thank you" to all who contributed their time and talent for the event: Bill Bacon, Lois Bacon, Bruce Barnett, Barbara Bergquist, Ray Bigelow, Jan Bowen, Stuart Chandler, Kit Copley, Barbara Cusack, Ann DerMarderosian, Joan Dimond, Bob Dole, Pat Ferrone, Jeanne Gerber, Joe Gerber, Charlotte Goodman, Tom Harkins, Olivia Hurlock, Sandra Jaszek, Judi Lasser, and Lorri Lofvers.

Also, Barbara Lovely, Carol Lucibella, Keith McClelland, Lynne McClelland, Jim Maguire, Catherine Marengi, David Mecsas, Gwen Mecsas, Beth Miller, Doug Olsen, Laurie Perkins, Erna Place, Sally Powers, Domenic Prato, Eileen Prato, Shirley Pratt, Susan Renaud, Susan Richman, Dawn Ringel, Dawn Rosenberg, Eileen Ryan, John Ryan, Jim Saum, Kalpana Shah, Harriet Silverman, Fred Slater, Sam Stern, Chet Swett, Alex Verschoor-Kirss, Rein Verschoor-Kirss, Kathy Walsh, Eleanor Weekes, Gloria Welter, Sue Young, Peter Zheutlin, and John Zukowski.

Moving the donations along on a daily basis, as well as at the beginning and end of sales, are Angel Lopez, Ray Cranton, and Howard Egerton. We thank our custodians and the forbearing library staff for their support. We express "Thanks" once again to Sudbury Farms and Trader Joe's for supplying those brown bags which take thousands of books home to new owners. ♦



Cheers for the Library Bookies Team

Participating in the Needham Education Foundation's Spelling Bee on April 11 were Lois Sockol from the library trustees, Gay Ellen Dennett from the library staff, and Robin Buratowski from the Friends. While not claiming any prize, the Library Bookies dealt the right letters far into their round. ♦

Greetings to more new members of the Friends in the first quarter of the year! They include Susan Hazell, Dorothy Quirk, Lynne Rachlis, and Christine Tetreault. Prospective members are assured that memberships are welcome throughout the year.

Late payment of dues is always preferable to nonpayment, which ultimately results in being dropped from the roster. (You're in good form if your mailing label indicates 10/07.)

CHANNELING IDEAS INTO ACTION

Program committee seeks involved members

Of all the Friends' contributions to the community through the Library, which have endured the longest? Book sales? Actually, no. Predating the first book sale in October 1973 were several programs offered to the public at no charge. Whether in the old Community Room, no Community Room, or the new Community Room, Friends' programs have drawn audiences on topics as wide-ranging as the collections in the Library itself.

Planning for Friends-sponsored programs in 2007-2008 is under way with the formation of a small committee. This activity involves more than generation of ideas; volunteers follow through by contacting presenters and arranging the details of a program. Committee members work closely with the librarian responsible for programs scheduled in the Community Room. The committee chair provides updates to the Friends' president and board of directors.

If you are interested in learning more about the Friends' program committee, please contact the outgoing committee chair, Lynne Stern: lynnestern@juno.com or 781-444-8992.

Friends' representative joins new committee

Last Spring, the Children's Department Study Committee, established by the library trustees, conducted a survey. Among the implemented recommendations is a six-member Children's Department Advisory Committee. The representative to the committee from the board of Friends of the Library is Sue Richman. Members are also drawn from the Library Foundation of Needham, the Needham Education Foundation, and a parent from each of the following groups: pre-school, grades K-2, and grades 3-6. Appointed members serve a three-year term.

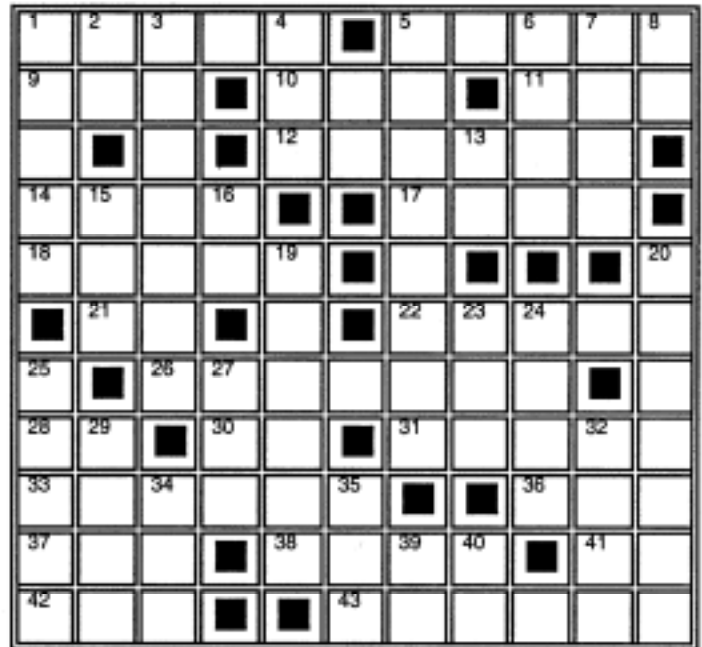
The advisory group will meet with the Children's Room Supervisor three times a year to take up suggestions on programming, activities, the collections, and other relevant topics. In addition to serving as liaisons between the public and the Children's Department, it is hoped that the advisory members will help identify resources to support programs. ♦

Fun Facts about the New Library

- Increase in Circulation 29 percent
- New cards, Registrations 2,905 count

A FRIENDLY CROSSWORD

* Attributions on last page



Answers now: www.needhamlibrary.org/friends
OR in the next issue of *The Bookbyte*

Across

- 1 "When I get a little money I buy ____;"* - cont'd 14A
- 5 Ordinary language used in speaking or writing
- 9 Sponsored new library's first birthday party
- 10 Architect, Louvre's modern entrance
- 11 "For I ne'er saw true beauty ____ this night."*
- 12 Author, *Little Women*
- 14 1A cont'd: "and if any is left I buy ____ and clothes."*
- 17 "...a Loaf of Bread..., a Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse — and ____..."*
- 18 Golden Arch order: Big Mac and ____
- 21 Ode ____ a Grecian Urn*
- 22 Friday the ____ Slept Late*
- 26 Exhibits on monthly display in the Friends' ____
- 28 950 to the Romans
- 30 N. and S. Fork(s), NY
- 31 Ravi Shankar's instrument
- 33 "If a book is worth reading, it is worth ____."*
- 36 Before the Common ____
- 37 Flightless bird resembling an ostrich
- 38 Many geological eras
- 41 Postal abbr. for Iran
- 42 Hard-to-account-for ability
- 43 Brady Coyne mystery novelist

Down

- 1 Poker tactic
- 2 *The Grapes ____ Wrath**
- 3 Friends' year-round book sale
- 4 Offers beauty pampering
- 5 "What is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without ____ or conversation?"**
- 6 ____ von Bismarck
- 7 Photos of artifacts in ____ often accompany displays
- 8 ____ Niño
- 13 "____ say, can you see...?"**
- 15 Montana's motto, "____ y plata."
- 16 Postal abbr. for Delaware
- 19 Ocean water characteristic
- 20 "My ____ was dukedom large enough."*
- 23 Jacqueline Kennedy wed ____ Onassis.
- 24 Friends' newsletter, *The Book* ____
- 25 Playwrite, *The Zoo Story*
- 27 ____ *Baba and the Forty Thieves**
- 29 Hardy fall flowers
- 32 Seed covering
- 34 Affirmative (slang)
- 35 AOL's "You've ____ mail!"
- 39 Sodium (sym.)
- 40 Postal abbr. for Spain

KEEPING TRACK OF "THE SEVEN"

The recent town election included one new candidate and one incumbent for two seats on the Board of Library Trustees. Rose Doherty is the newest elected member. Lois Bacon begins her fifth term; at the trustees' meeting on April 17, she was elected chair. The term for library trustees is three years. Continuing in office are Tom Harkins, Margaret Pantridge, Sally Powers, Greg Shesko, and Lois Sockol. ♦

MENTAL HEALTH *continued from page 1*

year graduate student at Harvard Medical School in the lab of Dr. Bruce Yankner. She studies how oxidative damage to DNA affects aging and cognition in the human brain. She is a *cum laude* graduate of Bowdoin College with majors in Neuroscience and English.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a debilitating anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened. A description of symptoms and precipitating events prefaces an explanation of the known physiological causes of PTSD and why some individuals develop it while others exposed to similar trauma do not. Presenter Tim Cherry also discusses current and future possibilities for treatment. A fifth year graduate student in the lab of Dr. Constance Cepko at Harvard Medical School, he studies how individual neurons develop to form a functional adult nervous system. Tim is a *cum laude* graduate of Cornell University, with a B.A. in Human Population Genetics and Linguistics. ♦



Friends of the Needham Public Library
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www.needhamlibrary.org/friends

April 30
Friends' Program
Seminar on Mental Health

Spring Book Sale
June 2 and 3

June 6
Friends' Annual Meeting with
Syndicated Columnist Terry Marotta

YOU JUST WON *continued from page 1*

stocked with the stored value cards. The cards are the best way to use this great service. In the first year of the program, patrons have purchased more than 1,600 cards and printed or copied more than 50,000 pages!

Library Director Ann MacFate noted that, due to Friends' funding of printer and copier services, the Library is able to invest in other services, such as collection development and part-time staff. Friends' President Doug Olsen remarked, "If this program were a business, you would not make this investment. The Friends provide these printer and copier services for the benefit of the Library and its patrons. They are just one way to fulfill the promise of our new Library." ♦



BOOK DISCUSSION SELECTIONS

Participation in the book group sponsored by the trustees of the Needham Free Public Library is open to anyone who has read the book for discussion. There is no registration or fee. The meetings take place from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room, located on the lower level, first room on the right of the new main entrance.

May 8 *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
June 12 *One of Ours* by Willa Cather

Trivia 1: "Bacon Room," 2nd floor, next to the entrance from Highland Avenue



SPRING BOOK SALE

Saturday, JUNE 2
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, JUNE 3
Bargain Day 1 - 4 p.m.

***ATTRIBUTIONS, from page 3**

- 1A; 14A Desiderius Erasmus
- 11A Romeo, *Romeo and Juliet*
- 17A *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*
- 21A John Keats
- 22A Harry Kemelman
- 33A John Ruskin
- 2D John Steinbeck
- 5D *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- 13D *The Star Spangled Banner*
- 20D Prospero, *The Tempest*
- 27D *The Thousand and One Nights*

Trivia 2: Suspended from level 2; overhang the seating area near Circulation

The Bookbyte is the newsletter of Friends of the Needham Public Library, 1139 Highland Ave., Needham, MA 02494. There are four or more issues per year. Copies are available at the Library and are mailed to members. Editor, Sandra Jaszek