

# Friends of the Needham Public Library

## THE BOOK BYTE

Vol. XVI, No. 2

Late Winter 2009

### FRIENDS PRIME COLLECTION ENRICHMENT Largest part of \$30,425 allocation

The focus of the 2008-2009 Wish List presented to the Friends' board of directors by Library Director Ann MacFate is enrichment of the collections for adults, young adults, and children. Together, they account for \$26,000 out of the entire allocation of \$30,425. Friends of the Library has supplemented the town's budget for the Library since 1973.

In response to the high demand for audiovisual materials, the single highest allocation is \$8,000 for adults, followed by \$3,000 for children. Library users will find the new playaway format in all departments, including young adults. Additional books on CD, graphic novels, and Anime DVDs reflect current interests among young adults.

Additional print materials to interest adults include reference, travel, law, business, sports, and extra copies of nonfiction bestsellers. Nonfiction books for children also get a boost.

Besides collection development, the Wish List provides funding for foreign periodicals, programs for children, and passes to the Children's Museum, Boston and the Discovery Museums, Acton. The cost of six free programs sponsored in 2008-2009 is outside the Wish List. So is the cost of the printer and copier system for both patrons and staff. As the Friends' President, Doug Olsen, reaffirms, "We want to ensure that the Library continues to serve our community well." ☺

### WHO DOESN'T LOVE OUR BARGAINS?

The Friends' fall and winter sales drew those who anticipated them, and some who happened upon them. Either way, shoppers liked a new feature of the annual fall sale, which was repeated at the recent winter sale: books and materials in the ongoing sale area priced at half-off on Day One as well as on the usual Day Two. The proceeds from October 4 and 5 totaled a gratifying \$6,420.15.

Book sale chair Greg Shesko worked closely with volunteer coordinators Robin Buratowski and Jane Swett for both sales. Assisting with the Fall event were: Bill Bacon, Lois Bacon, Bruce Barnett, Barbara Bergquist, Fran Borelli, Jan Bowen, Julia Buratowski, Stuart Chandler, Kit Copley,

*continued, side two*

### PROGRAMS TO ENJOY IN MARCH AND APRIL Sherlock's creator • Houses to grow with us

#### "Investigating Sherlock Holmes in the Sesquicentennial of A. Conan Doyle's Birth" Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m.

The stories of Arthur Conan Doyle made *The Strand* a bestselling magazine in Victorian England. Their popularity with succeeding generations makes them and their author subjects of scholarly discussion, particularly by *The Speckled Band of Boston*. Attorney **Daniel M. Polvere** is on the board of directors of this Holmesian society, which will commemorate Doyle's birth one hundred fifty years ago in May. He relates the Scotsman's life story, pointing out significant influences in his work, such as who inspired the character of Sherlock Holmes, and can address diverse topics, such as Doyle's interest in spiritualism or Holmes vis-à-vis women. Steeped in the "canon" of Doyle's writings, which include novels and nonfiction, Polvere describes the literary and social phenomenon of the observant detective then and now. As for which film portrayal of Holmes and Watson is truest to A. Conan Doyle's characters—come to compare your opinion with Mr. Polvere's.

#### *New Rooms for Old Houses: Beautiful Additions for the Traditional Home* Sunday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m.

In his 2007 book, published by Taunton Press in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, author **Frank Shirley** of Frank Shirley Architects in Cambridge demonstrates that noteworthy old homes can accommodate contemporary life styles. Frank Shirley, named in Best of Boston 2008, achieves a tasteful meeting of old and new in renovations or expansions through four cornerstones of design: balance, transition, public and private space, and materials. He is the Boston Society of Architects' appointed member to the Cambridge Historical Commission; his own home in Cambridge is a Victorian updated in keeping with his principles. Shirley's presentation will include slides of architectural projects throughout Massachusetts. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and autograph, courtesy of New England Mobile Book Fair. On our library's shelves, it is 609.837 S. ☺



**Friends of the Needham Public Library**  
**1139 Highland Avenue**  
**Needham, MA 02494**

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## FRIENDS' GALLERY

### >> MARCH

**Pastels by Penny Vaughn**  
**Still Lifes, Landscapes and Scenes**

### >> APRIL

**Artists and Artisans of**  
**Needham Open Studios**

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## MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

"Thank you" to the many who renewed their dues prior to receiving the notice for 2008-2009. Recently, everyone received the annual reminder and remittance envelope, along with a message from the Friends' president, Doug Olsen, about libraries in light of the current economy. New members and those who renewed prior to the recent mailing have an Oct-09 notation on their address. *A notation of Oct-08 means that it is time to submit dues.* The remittance envelope may be mailed or turned in at the library's circulation desk. Your response is appreciated.

- "Welcome" to our new members: George Baierlein; Pam, Mark, Sara & Andrew Fisher; Ida & Dmitry Gorenburg; Debbie & David Winnick.
- If you can assist with light refreshments at any of the programs on March 15, April 5, or June 3, please call our hospitality chair, Jan Bowen, at 781-449-4827.

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**LOVE OUR BARGAINS** *continued from side one*  
 Barbara Cusack, Ann Der Marderosian, Joan Dimond, Bob Dole, Ellen Freeman, Jeanne Gerber, Joe Gerber, Madeleine Greis, Patricia Henry, Marge Hunter, Sandra Jaszek, Patty Jamison, Dee Kingston, Barbara Lovely, and Michele Marram.

Also, Gina McClellan, Keith McClelland, Lynn McClelland, Gwen Mecsas, Joan Mecsas, Ellen Moskowitz, Linda Novak, Paul O'Keefe, Doug Olsen,

Laurie Perkins, Sally Powers, Joyce Preston, Hannah Reading, Susan Renaud, Susan Richman, Dawn Rosenberg, Eileen Ryan, John Ryan, Jim Saum, Kalpana Shah, Harriet Silverman, Henry Smith, Lois Sockol, Sam Stern, Chet Swett, Carol Thomas, Alex Verschoor-Kirss, Eleanor Weekes, and Gloria Welter. The Needham High School students among these volunteers energized the communal effort, and we hope to see them again.

### **Winter sale tops Fall proceeds**

Who can explain why the sale on January 31 and February 1 brought in higher receipts than the one in Fall? Bargain Day pushed the figure to \$7,724.95. We thank Roche Brothers and Sudbury Farms for the large supply of brown paper bags, our bargain units of sale.

Greg, Robin, and Jane thank all winter sale volunteers, many of whom also helped in October: Bill Bacon, Lois Bacon, Bruce Barnett, Barbara Bergquist, Jan Bowen, Stuart Chandler, Kit Copley, Barbara Cusack, Joan Dimond, Rose Doherty, Bob Dole, Pat Ferrone, Ellen Freeman, Jeanne Gerber, Barbara Harkins, Tom Harkins, Gail Hedges, Sandra Jaszek, Patty Jamison, Teri Lane, Marcia Lewis, Barbara Lovely, Keith McClelland, Lynn McClelland, Gwen Mecsas, Joan Mecsas, Paul O'Keefe, Doug Olsen, Laurie Perkins, Sally Powers, Shirley Pratt, Joyce Preston, Susan Renaud, Susan Richman, Jim Saum, Kalpana Shah, Robin Shecter, Jeanne Smith, Sam Stern, Chet Swett, Carol Thomas, Page Van Amson, Rein Verschoor-Kirss, Eleanor Weekes, Rachel Weinstock, and Gloria Welter.

### **Behind the success**

There is much to coordinate for each sale. The Community Room schedule has to allow for setup and breakdown. The custodial staff sets out tables, delivers hundreds of boxes from the third floor, and restores the room at the end. Library staff carries on amid the bustle of volunteers and sale patrons. Everyone performs so well, that it looks like nothing at all. We Friends know better. "Thank you" for facilitating our work. ☺

*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.