

Friends of the Needham Public Library

THE BOOK BYTE

Vol. XVI, No. 3

Spring 2009

IN SEARCH OF MEMBERS WILLING TO SERVE From the Friends' President, Douglas Olsen

Dear Friends,

The Library truly is a critical "human service" for our town's well-being. As people face tough economic challenges, they increasingly turn to the Library for access to and assistance with information and knowledge. The Friends' mission is to support the Library in the critical funding areas of collection development, museum passes, program sponsorship, and printer/copier service provision. In order to do our best work, we need the help of our members. There are currently many fun and rewarding opportunities:

Board of Directors: Serve in a regular and important way as a member of the Board. As a director, you participate in decision-making through periodic meetings and volunteer on a dedicated basis in some phase of our work. It can be in marketing, publications, programs, hospitality, technical assistance, book sales, or even business operations. Let your skill and talent guide you as you help the Friends help the Library.

Membership: The membership chair oversees our yearly membership mailing, updates the membership brochure, and helps members to connect with an interest within the organization.

Programs: The current committee needs members who not only generate ideas, but also contact speakers, and carry through on arrangements for the presentations.

Newsletter: Our newsletter, *The Bookbyte*, is our key communication out to the members. Our current editor would like assistance with layout and design.

Audit: Are you or is someone you know an accountant? We are required each year to have our financials reviewed; not much time, but a huge contribution.

Please contact me about your interest in any of these important roles. Thank you for your support.

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LIGHTHOUSES THAT STILL BECKON June 3 at 7:00 | "Silent Sentinels of the Shores" Ed Beaulieu, Producer and Commentator

Why wait for the June solstice to welcome summer? On Wednesday evening, June 3, let "Silent Sentinels of the Shores" transport you to oceans and lakes through the photography and live narration of Ed Beaulieu, who produced this DVD about lighthouses. The program follows the brief annual meeting of Friends of the Library in the Community Room at 7:00 p.m. The film includes lighthouses on the west and east coasts of the United States, and some outside, such as in Scotland, Spain, Nova Scotia, and Austria. Ed focuses on stories that are true—or maybe not—about the standing beacons. He will stand by afterward for questions, such as specifications about candlepower and height.

A Needham connection

Ed's pursuit of lighthouses began with the one in Portland, Maine. He and his wife heard about it in the song, "I See the Light," performed by folksingers at the Homegrown Coffeehouse in Needham years ago. Many travels later, he returns to Needham with a production attesting to the allure of lighthouses. The DVD "Silent Sentinels of the Shores" will be on sale at the program. The annual meeting and program are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. ♦

BOOK SALE

Saturday, MAY 30 from 9:00 to 4:00

Items from Ongoing Sale at half-price both days

Sunday, MAY 31 from 1:00 to 4:00

Bargain Day

READ ABOUT

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FRIENDS' GALLERY

MAY

Needham High School
Award Winning Entries in the 2009
Boston Globe/Scholastic Art Competition

JUNE

Black and White Photos by Bob Coppola
"Free to All"

JULY

Kalman Gaes *et alii*
"Environment"

BOOKIES, THE A-TEAM AT THE BEE

For the eighteenth consecutive year, a Library Bookies team participated in the Spelling Bee of the Needham Education Foundation, held on April 2. Lois Sockol from the trustees, Gay Ellen Dennett from the staff, and Lindsey Kiser from the Friends followed up last year's win with a first place finish of their own. It was no easy time, up against the team from Needham High's Anime Club. The word which put an end to the verbal volleying was *gallimaufry*. Take the quiz in the next column to see if you know what it means. "Congratulations" to the Bookies and their worthy competitors. ♦

PLAYAWAYS—A NEW LEVEL OF PORTABILITY Friends fund latest digital collection

Have you tried a Playaway? From the very introduction of Playaways during the third week in April (National Library Week), many borrowers already have. The self-playing recorded books comprise a new collection among the high-demand audio books. Funding for Playaways was included in \$14,000 for audiovisual materials on the Director's Wish List, endorsed by Friends of the Library in November 2008.

Half the size of a deck of cards, Playaway is the simplest way to listen to a book. There are no tapes or CDs, and the self-contained digital unit can hold up to 80 hours of preloaded listening pleasure. Using clearly marked buttons, Playaway gives listeners the ability to move back and forth within or between chapters, and to alter the speed of a narrator's voice. It even has an automatic bookmark feature that remembers where the listener left off.

Playaway has a universal headphone jack that works with almost any type of headphone or mobility accessory. Simply supply earphones and one AAA battery. Playaways are available in the children's, young adult, and adult collections. For a list of titles, consult the New Item List, located on the octagonal display unit in front of new books on the main floor. ♦

MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

- "Welcome" to our new members: Debbie Anastas; Michael Diener; Erik Frederick; Denise and Russell Garlick; Mark Goldberg & Ursula Kaiser; Cliff and Laura London; Heather Marsh; Aaron Pressman & Whitney Connaughton.
- "Thank you" to Cliff and Laura London for providing refreshments for the program on April 5th with Frank Shirley, architect and author of *New Rooms for Old Houses: Beautiful Additions for the Traditional Home*.

The Friends of the Library appreciates all member support. For most, this is through dues and extra contributions. Many also volunteer for our book sales. In reading the letter from Doug Olsen, outgoing President (page 1), please note that "fun" is a plus to filling roles that keep the organization going.

About the Friends' Board of Directors—Members serve three year terms. Meetings for 2009-2010 are scheduled for the following Mondays at 7:30 p.m.: June 8, September 14, November 9, January 4, February 1, March 15, April 12, and June 14. ♦

It only seems far off

4-Hour Book Sale



AUGUST 8
9:00 to 1:00

Bookbyte QUIZ:

1. What is the definition of *gallimaufry*?
A. a sailing ship associated with pirates
B. a kitchen below deck on a small boat
C. a hodgepodge; jumbled assortment
2. Which state has the most lighthouses?
A. Michigan
B. Maine
C. California
3. When did Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon?
A. July 4, 1968
B. July 20, 1969
C. July 15, 1971

Congratulations! **LIBRARY TAKES THE LEED**

The Needham Free Public Library has been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification by the USBGC (U.S. Green Building Council). LEED is the USBGC's rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient and high performing buildings. The Needham Free Public Library was designed by Ann Beha Architects to achieve LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use, as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. LEED, which verifies environmental performance, occupant health, and financial return, was established for market leaders to design and construct buildings that protect and save precious resources while also making good economic sense.

Noteworthy features

LEED certification of the Needham Free Public Library was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impacted the project itself and the broader community. These include water-efficient landscaping, a rainwater harvesting system*, and implementation of a storm water management plan resulting in at least a 25 percent decrease in the rate and quantity of storm water runoff. Additional qualifiers are:

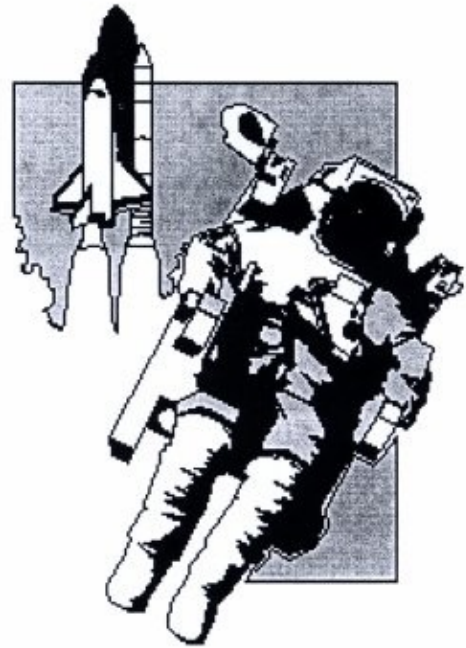
- >>equipping the building with heat recovery ventilators and condensing boilers;
- >> constructing a well-insulated building envelope;
- >>diverting 78.9 percent of project construction waste from a landfill to recycling;
- >>using low-emitting materials in choice of paint, carpet, and wood;
- >>installing nine bicycle stalls to encourage people to bicycle to the library.

"The Green building movement offers an unprecedented opportunity to respond to the most important challenges of our time, including global climate change and dependence on non-sustainable and expensive sources of energy," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "The work of innovative building projects such as the Needham Free Public Library is a fundamental driving force in the green building movement."

*An explanation of the rainwater harvesting system is located on the first floor window ledge, near the new books and audiovisual materials. ♦

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Margaret Pantridge and Gregory Shesko were both re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Library Trustees in the town's April election. At their meeting on April 15, the trustees elected Margaret Pantridge chair and Rose Doherty vice-chair for 2009-2010. Completing membership of the board are Lois Bacon, Tom Harkins, Sally Powers, and Lois Sockol.



FRIENDS FUEL SPACE-THEMED PROGRAMS **\$2,103 for enrichment this summer**

Participation in the **2009 Starship Adventure @ your Library Summer Reading Clubs** could be the highlight of a staycation. The Library takes the theme to great heights with its lineup of six free programs for children. Friends of the Library is sponsoring the programs at a cost of \$2,103. This is in addition to the 2008-2009 Wish List designation of \$4,500 for new materials in the Children's Department.

Starship Adventure opens with Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack's presentation of "Sun, Moon, Stars, Shine!" on June 23 at 3:00 p.m. Multicultural myths to illuminate the cosmos come alive through music and audience participation. There is no advance signup for this kickoff program.

Registration is required for participation in "Children's Technology Workshop: Space Animation," offered on June 24 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for Grades 2-4, and on June 25 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for Grades 5-8. Signup will be at the Children's Reference Desk, approximately one week before.

"The Pumpernickel Puppets: Sir George and the Dragon with Z-2000 the Space Robot" perform on July 13 at 3:00 p.m. "Noisy Science" with Karl Saliter and Ed Stander takes place on July 27 at 3:00 p.m. These July presentations and the one in August do not require signup.

"Toe Jam Puppet Band in Outer Space" on August 21 at 3:00 p.m. invites a countdown to blast off with the music from the band's new original CD.

Details about the programs are available at the Children's Department, in *Library Notes*, and on the library's website. ♦



Friends of the Needham Public Library
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Needham, MA 02494

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www.needhamlibrary.org/friends

Book Sale

Sat., May 30: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sun., May 31: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Bargain Day

Wed., June 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting with Program

Silent Sentinels of the Shores

Ed Beaulieu, Producer & Commentator

"Libraries will get you
through times of
no money better than
money will get you
through times of
no libraries."

Anne Herbert, as quoted in *The Whole Earth Catalog*

Our times. Statistics for the month of March 2009 at the Needham Free Public Library indicate a 10.9 percent increase in circulation over March 2008. The figure for website hits also climbed by 26 percent in March 2009.

**What are the dates of the 37th
Fall 2009 Book Sale?**

**Saturday, OCTOBER 3
Sunday, OCTOBER 4**

Friends of the Library thanks our benefactors for their donations of books and materials. Our success begins with the generosity of book-loving donors, and culminates in the support of book-loving buyers. In between, we do some work; well, actually, a lot of work! To help with sorting books or to work at sales, contact Jane, 781-444-8344 or Robin, robinb@hms.harvard.edu.

Answers to the QUIZ on page 2 [1 C; 2 A; 3 B]

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