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Fall 2011 - Newsletter

Hank Phillippi Ryan at the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Friends of Thayer Public Library will be held on Monday, October 24th at 7 pm in the Logan Auditorium. This event is open to members and non-members alike. After a brief business meeting, Hank Phillippi Ryan will be the featured speaker. Phillippi Ryan has been a reporter on WHDH for over 30 years winning 27 Emmy's, 10 Edward R. Murrow Awards and numerous local and regional awards for her investigative and consumer protection reporting. In addition she used her experience in the television newsroom to create a series of mystery novels featuring the wisecracking Charlotte "Charlie" McNally, an investigative reporter caught up in riveting story lines, newsroom politics, and a problematic personal life. Her latest novel, *Drive Time*, was nominated in 2010 for the Agatha Award for Best Mystery, the Anthony Award for the Best Paperback Original, and the Daphne Award for Best Mainstream Mystery/Suspense Novel. Her novels will be available for purchase and she will sign copies.

Tour Boston Public Library with the Friends

Many of us on the board have wanted to go to the BPL for a guided tour of the library to learn about the grand entry, the restored John Singer Sargent murals, imposing reading room and restful courtyard. Somehow though, it never seems to happen between setting aside the time, fighting the traffic, and finding the tour schedule. The Friends have solved these problems. On Tuesday, September 27th a bus will be leaving Thayer Public Library at 9:30 am. We will be bringing along with us the board's own professional tour guide, Christian VanDerslice. The adventure will include the tour of the library; and some time for individual exploration of the library exhibits or Copley Plaza and a quick lunch. We will return to the library by 1:45 pm. There is no fee for this trip, but we would appreciate a contribution to cover the cost of the bus (recommended \$7). To reserve a seat(s) please leave your name, number of seats, telephone number and/or e-mail address at friendsofthayerpl@braintreema.gov or 781-848-0405 ext. 4002. This trip is limited to 40 people and we expect to fill this program so reserve early please.

Library Express

In July Jane Fogg, a Friends board member and Library Express volunteer, made the first delivery of library materials to a resident of Braintree who is no longer able to leave her home to enjoy the library. The library, the Department of Elder Affairs and the Friends have joined together to deliver books to permanently and temporarily (at least 12 weeks) homebound individuals. A representative of the DEA and a Friends volunteer will go to the patron's home to enroll him/her. Once enrolled, new materials are delivered and the old materials retrieved every two weeks. This program includes CDs, DVDs, audio books, magazines and electronic games. Patrons can request specific titles or make general requests for a type of material, subject matter and/or particular author, and the circulation librarian will make the selections. If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about home delivery or would like to volunteer please contact the Friends at friendsofthayerpl@braintreema.gov or 781-848-0405 ext. 4002.

Time to Refurbish

The library is a beautiful building, but 11 years of very high traffic shows and in areas the carpets are downright grubby, as unkind as that may sound, particularly on the lower level. The Trustees and library Director, Betsy Wolfe, have been working with a designer to plan much needed re-flooring and repainting within the building. A funding plan has been established which includes capital funds from the Town as well as contributions from the library Trustees, the library and the Friends. The Friends are happy to donate \$60,000 towards the first phase of this project. The first phase will include the lower level.

Friends Committees Quick Notes

Book Sale Area – Whenever the library is open you can purchase used books, CDs, DVDs and audio books at incredibly low prices in the Friends Book Sale Area on the lower level. The Friends raise over \$1000 per month by selling materials generously donated by our supporters. Please donate your books, CDs, DVDs and audio books by leaving them in front of our storage area on the library lower level or at either of two collection days at Town Hall – the BELD sponsored collection on October 1st from 9 am – 1 pm or Make a Difference Day on October 22nd from 9 am – 1 pm. These days are coordinated with the Farmers Market: you can shop and drop off items at the same time. Please donate only materials in excellent condition, i.e. condition that you would buy for your own use – no used textbooks or encyclopedias.

Café– The Friends have brought two new vending machines to the Friends Café. These machines are more reliable and bring a much greater variety of drinks and snacks, from healthier selections to the old favorite indulgences.

Concert Series– The 2011-2012 series of eight Sunday afternoon concerts is set and will be a wonderful selection of music from jazz to chamber; and showtunes to the Navy Band. The complete schedule is on the Upcoming Events page.

Fundraising– Please buy your own Friends book bag at the circulation desks on the main floor or in the children’s library. The \$4 purchase price supports the activities of the Friends. From some of our generous donors we have learned:

- 1) Many employers have matching gift programs. Your contribution to the Friends may be doubled by your employer.
- 2) If you have money deducted from your paycheck as a charitable contribution to United Way, you may be able to designate the Friends as a recipient of your donation.

Hazardous Waste Day is September 24th from 9 am – 12 pm at the Recycling Center on Ivory Street. You can support the Friends and clear old electronics and truck and auto tires and batteries from your basements and garages. Fees ranging from \$5 - \$20 per item are collected and the proceeds go to the Friends.

Gardening Group – This spring a dedicated group of volunteers planned and installed the gardens along the Washington Street entryway and sidewalk. They continue to maintain these gardens. Watch for changes as the group mixes and matches new annuals and the perennials mature over the years.

Membership – Everyone who joins or renews their membership at the Patron (\$50) and Contributor (\$100) level will receive a free Friends Book Bag.

Special Thanks

During the course of a year there are many businesses and organizations that deserve a special note of appreciation:

The vibrant and beautiful posters for the 2010-2011 Sunday Concert Series were designed for us by **Cindy Daniels** (web.com.mac/CDANIELSDESIGN) and we are especially excited that she donated her talent and time in designing the posters for the 2011-2012 season as well. These posters appear in miniature on the bookmarks which promote the series.

Last fall, the **Rotary Club** held a used book drive to benefit the Friends. Hundreds of books were donated and all of the proceeds from our book sale area and garage sales directly benefit the library.

Last October we received a grant from **Comcast** for children’s programming. With this grant the Friends was able to support children’s programs such as the Selfish Giant puppet show; New England Aquarium’s presentation on whales; the Moby Dick and the Wailers Concert and Ice Cream Social. The Friends also provided the awards for the Halloween Ghost Story contest, the Scrabble Tournament and Braintree’s Got Talent.

Karen Disher of **The Potting Bench** donated beautiful centerpieces for the December and May Teas hosted by the Trustees. Karen also provided the Friends Gardening Group with valuable advice in the planning of our new gardens.

This summer the **South Shore Playhouse Associates**, locally known as the South Shore Music Circus, awarded a grant to support the Sunday Concert Series. These concerts are performed by professional musicians and this grant is greatly appreciated.

A grant recently received from **Target** will be used to add activity centers to the children's library. Puppets and tables with Duplos, Legos, trains and blocks will make the children's library a more dynamic place for activities, storytelling and reading.

BELD is sponsoring a book drive for us on October 1st from 9 am – 1 pm at Town Hall in conjunction with the Farmer's Market.

Membership Renewals

All memberships are renewable in October, however, if you joined after April 1, 2010 you received 6 free months and your membership expires in October 2012. Your expiration date appears on the mailing label on your envelope. .

Although phrased in terms of "membership" the Friends is really just people who support the goals of the library through payment of dues, contributions, and, for some, the giving of their time. We hope that you will continue to support the library and will ask others to join with us.

Membership Application

Date: _____

Please complete this form and mail to:
Friends of Thayer Public Library
798 Washington Street
Braintree, Ma. 02184

Membership Dues
___ Individual - \$10
___ Dual/Family - \$20
___ Patron - \$50
___ Contributor - \$100

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

I would like to volunteer with the checked activities:

___ Book Sale Area ___ Hospitality
___ Membership ___ Fundraising
___ Call Me ___ Event Planning
___ I support the goals of the Friends but cannot volunteer at this time.

Friends

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 11 at 3 pm – Concert Series – Moby Dick and the Wailers will return this year with their very popular jazz renditions.

Saturday, September 24th, 9 am – 12 pm – Electronics Collection Day at the Recycling Center on Ivory Street. Bring your used televisions, computers, truck and auto tires and batteries. Fees range from \$5 - \$20 and the proceeds support the Friends.

Tuesday, September 27th, 9:30 am-1:45 pm – Guided Tour of Boston Public Library – reservations required – please leave your name, number attending, telephone number and/or e-mail address at friendsofthayerpl@braintreema.gov or 781-848-0405 ext 4002

Saturday, October 1st, 9 am- 1 pm – BELD sponsored book drive at the Farmer's Market. Please donate used books, CDs, DVDs, and audio books in great condition to support the Friends.

Sunday, October 16, 3 pm – Concert Series - Brian McCarthy appeared last year and has been asked to return because of the great reception given to this pianist.

Saturday, October 22nd, 9am – 1 pm – The Friends will be participating in Make A Difference Day with other town social service agencies. Please donate used books, CDs, DVDs, and audio books in great condition to support the Friends.

Monday, October 24th, 7 – 9 pm – Annual Meeting with featured speaker Hank Phillippi Ryan. Open to members and non-members.

Sunday, November 20 3 pm – Concert Series - Nancy Carr will sing popular songs accompanied by the piano, guitar, bass, clarinet, and saxophone. www.nancycarr.net

Sunday, January 22, 3 pm – Concert Series - Spinnaker Wind Quintet – is chamber music at its finest, in both traditional and new arrangements. spinnakerwinds.com

Sunday, February 19, 3 pm – Concert Series - Nick Dinnerstein is an accomplished cellist who will be accompanied by the piano. Nickdinnerstein.moonfruit.com

Sunday, March 18, 3 pm – Concert Series - US Navy Band Northeast promises to be so rousing that the performance will be in Town Hall. navyband.navy

Sunday, April 15, 3 pm – Concert Series – Akiko Kobayashi will play the violin along with a piano accompanist. Akikokobayashi.net

Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Logan Auditorium at the library.