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April 2011



FRIENDS OF THE MORSE INSTITUTE LIBRARY

Off the Shelf

Friends Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Acknowledged at October Town Meeting

By Sally McCoubrey

At the opening of the October, 2010 Natick Town Meeting, the Friends of the Morse Institute Library was publicly acknowledged on the celebration of its 20th anniversary. Dr. Joseph Keefe, president of the Morse Institute Library Board of Trustees, introduced the motion to salute the Friends for its work in supporting the library, both financially and intellectually, over the past two decades. The salutation stated in part:

The efforts of the Friends over these last two decades have enriched the programs and resources available to the library's patrons through the financial and volunteer support for ongoing programs, services and major capital purchases. The organization has also played a leading role in efforts to recognize and express appreciation to the staff of the Morse Institute.

The work of the Friends through its successful book sales and membership drives has raised and contributed over \$400,000 in resources to the Morse Institute and, through this institution, to the citizens of the Town of Natick. Most importantly, the Friends as an organization serves as a model of cooperation and collaboration between the citizens of a community and its basic institutions.

Thank you, Dr. Keefe, the Board of Trustees and staff of the Morse Institute Library, and all Town Meeting members for this generous recognition. The Friends will continue to work toward supporting the library and the Natick community to merit the confidence you have shown in our organization.



To celebrate the Friends' 20th anniversary, the library trustees and staff hosted a Friends Appreciation Tea last November. Several Friends presidents attended, including (left to right): Current president, Sally McCoubrey, and past presidents Mary McKenna, Susanne Stern, Carol Gloff, Terri Evans, and Kathleen Donovan.

Off the Shelf

A newsletter published twice a year by the

Friends of
the Morse
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14 East Central Street
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which is solely responsible for
its content.

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Book Sale Operations Manager

Terri Evans

Library Liaison

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President's Column

By Sally McCoubrey

As I started on my walk this morning, bundled as usual in hat, scarf and mittens, the thermometer at 28 degrees, I was nonetheless warmed by the thought that it was, officially, the first day of spring. The robins were back and the crocuses were showing their brave little heads to the world. Spring! The time I think of as the beginning of the year, the time for sweeping away the darkness of past months and setting goals, real goals, replacing those long forgotten, disingenuous ones made months ago and long buried under mountains of snow. I have some personal goals, some career goals and, of course, many goals for the Friends of the Morse Institute Library.

My goals for the Friends are not modest. In general, I would like to see a substantial increase in the level of funding, as well as in the variety of projects supported by the Friends. More specifically, I would like to see the variety of museum passes increased, despite the ever-rising cost of the ones already funded by the Friends. I would like to see enhancements to the technology and accessibility tools that the Friends provided, but that will need repair and replacement. I would like to see increased funding for programs that promote children's literacy, one of the goals defined by the library's recent five-year strategic plan. I would like to see increased funding for enhancements to the bookmobile, a treasured service unique to the Natick community. And I would like to see the Friends work closely with the library to support their strategic goal to provide a wide range of cultural and educational programs for the community.

As is the nature of goals, they are easily made but are more challenging to achieve. Success will take money, of course, but also the dedication and hard work of all of us that care about the library. Your financial support is critical, as well as your continued commitment of time and energy, the fuel that powers volunteer organizations. After 20 years of this all-volunteer organization, the Friends of the Morse Institute Library, has not only survived, but thrived on your commitment. Thank you for that and for your continued support for the challenges ahead.

Tribute to Terri and Bruce Evans

By Kathy Flaherty

On Tuesday, March 8, 2011, the Evans Room was dedicated to Terri and Bruce Evans "in grateful recognition ... for their many years of dedicated service to the Friends and the Morse Institute Library."

Located on the lower level of the library, the book sorting room is where, for the past decade, several hours a week, Terri and Bruce have tirelessly sorted and prepared countless donations of items for Friends of the Library book sales. Dr. Joseph Keefe, president of the library Board of Trustees, observed that this tribute to Terri and Bruce will "allow the larger community to appreciate what volunteerism in its purest sense provides to the community."

No Winter Blues at the Book Sales!

By Pam Koskovich

Just around the time our last newsletter was going to print, we held our fall 2010 book and music sale, which brought in \$9,064 to support the library. It seems long ago, because in January we held an even more successful sale, bringing in the second-highest total ever – over \$10,500.

As we waited for the incoming arctic blast of weather on the weekend of January 22-23, hundreds of patrons found their way to our sales rooms, which were busy on both Saturday and Sunday. We all knew there was more snow coming in the following week... and what hardy New England book or music-lover doesn't like to stock up before a storm? Our patrons found plenty to read, as well as DVDs, videos, puzzles, games, music, and Friends wares such as reusable grocery bags, pencils, note cards, and aprons. Thank you to all who braved the cold to support our winter sale, and thank you to all of the volunteers who make each sale possible.

See you at our next sale May 21-22, 2011.

A Big Thanks to Harlee Strauss

By Pam Koskovich

The great success of our book sales in recent years is in no small part due to the hard work of one volunteer in particular, Harlee Strauss, who has devoted countless hours to manage the sales for many years. Her work recruiting and organizing volunteers, overseeing the entire set-up, managing the two-day sale, and organizing the pack-up at the end, has played a huge part in the success of our sales.

Harlee has decided to step down from running the book sales, and so we're pleased that her last sale was such a success. The sales are the most important tool that we have to raise funds to support the library each year. Harlee's energy, good humor, and devotion to the Friends have helped the sales run smoothly, and she will be sorely missed. In fact, we've discovered that it will take an entire committee of people to replace just one woman! Harlee is one of those Friends volunteers who has done much behind the scenes with little fan-fare...and BIG results. Thank you, Harlee!

Friends Receive Generous Bequest

By Sally McCoubrey

The Friends of the Morse Institute Library is honored to have received a generous bequest from the estate of Jeanne Marie Brodeur. Through her gift, Ms. Brodeur recognized the value of the Friends to the library and the Natick community.

Ms. Brodeur was born in Natick, and is the daughter of Anna Brodeur, who worked for many years at the library. Ms. Jeanne Brodeur graduated from St. Patrick's Parochial School, Marian High School in Framingham, and Emerson College in Boston. She worked for many years in public television in Boston, Orlando, Florida, and Dallas, Texas. She also worked for the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge and was a consultant for the Wolfe Organization. During her life she traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada. In her later years, Ms. Brodeur was employed as Vice President of Development for the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California. After her death, she was recognized as the 2009 Outstanding Professional by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Her friends and colleagues fondly remember Jeanne's infectious smile, her courage and strength, her vast experience and life accomplishments, and her great potato salad!

Over the next several months, the Friends' leadership will discuss ways we can both honor Ms. Brodeur's memory and continue the work that inspired her generosity. We also hope that Ms. Brodeur's example will inspire others to remember the Friends or the Morse Institute Library in their estate planning, thereby helping to insure that the library thrives for many generations.

Mid-Year Treasurer's Report

by Pam Koskovich

The Friends of the Morse Institute Library is half-way through its 2011 fiscal year. We continue to support the Morse Institute by funding the Natick Reads events, the purchase of Speed Read books, and the Museum Pass program. In addition to these programs, this year we are providing necessary funding to help the library offer a strong, diverse range of programming for adults, young adults, and children, including a timely series of workshops to assist job hunters in resume and cover-letter writing.

In addition to our successful fall and winter book and music sales, which are usually the main source of our income, we also received an extremely generous bequest from a former patron, Jeanne Brodeur. We are exceedingly grateful for her thoughtfulness in remembering the Friends.

Income

Income since the beginning of this fiscal year on September 1 includes:

- \$30,557 from a generous bequest
- Over \$19,600 from the fall and winter book and music sales
- \$6,500 in membership donations, matching gifts, and one memorial gift
- \$4,098 from online book sales
- \$764 from the sales of Friends wares
- \$579 from our mini-golf activity at Natick Days
- \$450 from the sales of Book Lovers Calendars

As always, we thank you, our Friends, for your generosity when you renew your membership, and ask that you remember to check with your employer to see if they will match your donation. Thanks as well to all who patronized the book sales, purchased calendars, bags, and pencils, and visited us at Natick Days.

Expenditures

This year the Friends has pledged \$37,400 in funding to the library. This includes:

- \$13,000 for library programming
- \$8,500 for Speed Read books

- \$6,500 for museum passes
- \$3,500 for the Natick Reads program
- \$3,500 to support the resume-writing program
- \$2,400 for two custom-built carts for the book-mobile to support visits to the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center (the "Natick Labs")

Of this total \$37,400, we have so far given \$18,300 this fiscal year.

The Friends also helps out with additional library expenses throughout the year:

- \$1,839 to cover the Children's Room fish tank maintenance
- \$745 to add lighting for the stained glass windows in the Children's Room
- \$570 to replace two CD players at the listening stations

Our operating expenses so far this year have totaled \$2,599 and include:

- \$868 for supplies and expenses related to the book sales
- \$540 for expenses related to membership mailings
- \$831 for newsletter printing
- \$415 for expenses related to our Annual Meeting in September, gifts to outgoing board members, and special appreciation gifts to the founding members of the Friends as we celebrated our 20th year
- Small amounts for supplies and membership dues

Looking Ahead

We anticipate continuing the year in fine financial shape. The steering committee will continue its discernment process regarding the best use of the extra income from the bequest received, and as always we hope for another successful book sale in May. Thanks to all of our Friends for your generosity in supporting the Morse Institute Library, and the gift of your time when you volunteer at a book sale, a fund-raiser, or library event.

Meet Another Good Friend: Fran Weisse

By Lynne Montross

You may have seen this smiling, energetic, hard-working “Friend” of the library at one of her many appearances as cashier for a Friends book sale, but that is only one of the roles she plays throughout the year for the Friends and for the library. Perhaps without



quite realizing what she was getting into, Fran became a member of the Friends. She was soon invited to join the steering committee, and then, when there was a vacancy, she was elected to the position of treasurer.

Since there are term limits, Fran eventually had to step off the steering committee. Knowing that Fran was now free for another challenge, Terri Evans, our Friend’s book-sale guru, in-

ited her to join the crew of pre-sale book sorters. Of course, Fran said, “Yes.” She also said, “Yes,” when asked to join the Staff Appreciation Luncheon committee. Once a year the Friends show how much they appreciate the dedication and hard work of the entire library staff with a luncheon in the library’s Lebowitz room. Each year the luncheon has a different theme, which is kept secret from the staff – so secret that Fran wouldn’t even divulge this year’s theme to me!

Fran’s background and interests go way beyond the walls of the library. A New Englander originally from Ayer, MA, Fran went off to the University of Connecticut and majored in English. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree, it was back to Massachusetts for a short stint with the American Heart Association. After that, Fran began a long-time career with the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (M.A.B.), where she is now the Greater Boston Regional Director at their offices in Brookline.

Fran is sighted, but not so her husband, Joe, who works with the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind. But, this doesn’t interfere with their shared passion for travel. Destinations have included the

U.K. and France, where they traveled in 2009 to Coupvray to visit the birthplace of Louis Braille on the 200th anniversary of his birth. Fran and Joe have also visited California, Oregon, and Washington, D.C. Their travel goal of visiting all the presidential libraries may take them to Springfield, Illinois next.

Fran also loves concerts of Celtic music, never missing any of Brian O’Donovan’s *Celtic Sojourn* concerts. Her other interests include reading and knitting, but her real passion is travel. Just mention a travel destination and her eyes light up.

The Friends and the Library are truly lucky that Fran keeps them as a high priority among her many interests in a very busy, diverse life.

Friends Web Site

By Sue Minio

You may have noticed that the Friends’ web site went down this winter. Sadly, vast amounts of spam were being sent through the server it was hosted on and the site had to come down.

The Friends, with the kind help of Gordon Fowler, is working hard to rebuild the web site on a new server, and provide a fresh new look to boot.

In the meantime, we have launched a Facebook page to highlight recent activities, list upcoming book sales, and share small snippets of newsletter stories. If you have a Facebook account, we would love you to “like” our page, MorseFriends, so that you can stay up to date while we work on our web site. In the coming months we hope to upload some photos from special Friends moments, post additional content, and we invite you to do the same. We hope that this can become a place where you can share feedback on our events, provide suggestions for possible Friends projects, and get involved in the wonderful things we do at the library. Plus, you will be the first to know when our new web site is up and running. We look forward to chatting with you online.

Literary Word Finder

Titles, Authors, and Genres

by Maria Tumang

Words may be hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally -- forward or backward. Enjoy!

Baldacci
Absolute Power
suspense
Cross

fiction
Coma
Austen
Shreve

Jane Eyre
Red Lily
Persuasion
Patterson

Shaara
Pilot's Wife
romance
Bronte

Crichton
Roberts
mystery
Gods and Generals

K	B	C	C	R	I	C	H	T	O	N	F	Y	J	C
Y	S	O	Z	V	H	Y	J	Y	N	P	E	F	B	E
D	T	M	A	X	V	A	R	B	N	F	V	I	B	R
B	R	A	M	A	N	E	S	D	I	F	E	C	A	E
R	E	G	H	E	T	E	J	W	K	L	R	T	L	W
O	B	Q	E	S	W	A	S	E	R	T	H	I	D	O
N	O	Y	Y	K	G	T	U	N	U	I	S	O	A	P
T	R	M	O	P	O	L	K	S	E	M	P	N	C	E
E	R	E	D	L	I	L	Y	N	T	P	J	K	C	T
O	I	J	I	B	H	U	G	V	C	E	S	F	I	U
T	C	P	E	R	S	U	A	S	I	O	N	U	R	L
X	R	D	R	E	F	H	W	Q	Z	X	C	V	S	O
N	O	S	R	E	T	T	A	P	S	A	M	N	B	S
D	S	F	G	H	R	O	M	A	N	C	E	J	K	B
U	S	V	N	W	E	R	T	Y	R	U	I	O	P	A
S	L	A	R	E	N	E	G	D	N	A	S	D	O	G

Yes, I want to join *The Friends of the Morse Institute Library*.

Mail this form and your tax-deductible donation to:

The Friends of the Morse Institute Library

14 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

_____ \$5 — Senior or Student Or, if you can afford a larger membership

_____ \$10 — Individual contribution:

_____ \$25 — Family _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$100+

*You may be able to double your gift. Ask your company about its matching gift policy.
Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Morse Institute Library.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____ *The Friends does not share its member database with any other organization.*



I would like to help with the following:

- ___ Occasional Book Sorting
- ___ Book Sales
- ___ Newsletter
- ___ Program & Hospitality
- ___ Displays
- ___ Steering Committee
- ___ As Needed

When can you help?

Weekday ___ Day ___ Eve

Weekend ___ Day ___ Eve

Volunteers Needed for Friends' Book & Music Sale

Thursday, May 19:

Set up anytime between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 21:

Help at the sale anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 22:

Help at the sale anytime between 12 noon and 3 p.m.

Pack up anytime between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Contact Maria Tumang:

mttumang@hotmail.com; 508-653-5756

Friends' Book & Music Sale

Great bargains!
Huge inventory!
Books, videos, puzzles,
CDs, records, gifts.



**Saturday, May 21, 2011
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



**Sunday, May 22, 2011
12 noon to 3 p.m.**

No strollers or scanners allowed
in the sale room on Saturday.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Friends of the Morse Institute Library

14 East Central Street
Natick, MA 01760

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**Friends of the Morse
Institute Library**



www.morsefriends.org

Check the membership
expiration date on
your address label:
Is it time to renew?

Morse Institute Library Hours

Through Friday, May 27, 2011

Monday — Thursday	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday	2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer hours, beginning Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Monday — Thursday	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

The library will be closed on the following holidays:

Sunday, April 24 - Easter
Saturday, May 28, Sunday, May 29 & Monday, May 30 -
Memorial Day Weekend

**For information on library hours, please call 508-647-6520
or check the library website at www.morseinstitute.org**

Morse Institute Library

14 East Central Street
Natick, MA 01760
www.morseinstitute.org

Circulation Department
508-647-6520

Reference Department
508-647-6521

Children's Department
508-647-6522