

## CHANGE AND CONTINUITY AMONG TRUSTEES



“Congratulations” to Emily M. Salaun, a trustee of the Needham Free Public Library until recently, who was appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) by Governor Mitt Romney in early 2005. Her three-year term on the nine-member state board began in February 2005. The MBLC oversees state-wide library services, advises municipalities and library trustees on operating and maintaining public libraries, and awards state and federal library grants. (The MBLC awarded the \$3 million-plus grant to Needham in 2003 for the library construction presently under way.)

Emily submitted her resignation to the board in early March, temporarily reducing its membership from seven to six. Elected to her first term as library trustee in 1985, she also served on the State Advisory Council on Libraries from 1995 to 1996. She is a member of town meeting, as well as a former member of the Friends of the Library’s board of directors. She is certain to bring informed commitment to overseeing the libraries of the Commonwealth.

### ***The search is on***

Upon the resignation of Mrs. Salaun, the library trustees announced the vacancy, inviting registered Needham voters to submit letters of interest addressed to the chair of the library board by April 7. The eight candidates who responded will be interviewed. Needham’s by-laws call for the appointee to be chosen by a roll call vote of the selectmen and the library trustees. The appointed term is until the 2006 town election. The date of the joint meeting of the boards will be announced, in accordance with the open meeting laws.

### ***Incumbent trustees re-elected***

In an uncontested election for three seats on the board of library trustees held on April 12, incumbents Tom Harkins, Sally Powers, and Lois Sockol each won election to an additional three-year term. As stated in the League of Women Voters’ 2005 Guide, the board “defines the policies of the library and hires personnel to help (the) library director carry out such policies.” The trustees with ongoing terms are Lois Bacon, Gail Hedges, and Greg Shesko, who was elected chair at the board’s meeting on April 13. ✂

## GOOD LUCK FAVORED WINTER BOOK SALE

The book sale on March 5 and 6 inserted itself between weekends of sloshy winter weather. Many book seekers took advantage of mild, dry, mostly sunny weather to peruse shelves and tables laden with books semi-catalogued for their browsing convenience. At the end, the treasurer reported sales of \$5, 149. 29.

Our thank yous begin with the loyal library staff and building custodians who see the Friends through each scheduled sale. Angel Lopez, head custodian, covered the weekend logistics, while both he and Ray Cranton regularly handle responsibilities related to the book sales. The following credits include not just those who set up the sale or worked at it, but also those who sort donations, arrange publicity, or schedule fellow volunteers: Lois Bacon, Barbara Barrett, Chris Baynes, Ray Bigelow, Jan Bowen, Robin Buratowski, Stuart Chandler, Whitney Chandler, Barbara Cusack, Jan Davis, Joan Dimond, Bob Dole, Pat Dunning, Pat Ferrone, Jim Fraylick, Jeanne Gerber, Joe Gerber, Florence Gordon, Anne Henderson, Patricia Henry, Alex Jaszek, Sandra Jaszek, Rein Kirss, Judi Lasser, Helen Lee, Barbara Lovely, Gina McClellan, Keith McClelland, Lynn McClelland, Gwen Meccas, Joan Meccas, Beth Miller, Doug Olsen, Erna Place, Shirley Pratt, Susan Renaud, Elizabeth Richman, Lynne Richman, Susan Richman, Joan Santos, Jim Saum, Kalpana Shah, Greg Shesko, Harriet Silverman, Sam Stern, Chet Swett, Jane Swett, Alex Verschoor-Kirss, Eleanor Weekes, Rachel Weinstock, Gloria Welter, Sue Young, and Peter Zheutlin.

“Thank you” to Roche Brothers for supplying the brown paper bags which help everyone get out the door with lots of good things to read or listen to (CDs, record albums), or watch (videos, DVDs), or even to assemble (jigsaw puzzles). ✂

**SPRING BOOK SALE**

**Saturday, JUNE 11  
9:00 to 4:00**

**Library at High Rock**



## **MEMBERSHIP MEMOS**

Next time you pass by the circulation desk at the Library, look for the newly-issued yellow Friends' Membership Brochure. It is a convenient reminder of ways in which the Friends support the Library — free programs, free museum passes, collection enrichment, international periodicals, selected computer equipment, and more. The brochure provides a membership form which may be submitted at any time throughout the year for new members or for renewal of dues. A list of volunteer opportunities is also included.

“Welcome” to a new member, Chris Baynes, who has already volunteered at book sales. ✂

### **FAITHFUL LIBRARY BOOKIES**

Here's a question for the Needham Education Foundation: How many teams, besides the Library Bookies, have participated in the Spelling Bee each year since it began? — That is, going by the team name, not by the same team members. For fourteen consecutive years, the Library Bookies have sent a trustee, a staff member, and a Friends member into the competition. This year's team members were Lois Sockol, Gay Ellen Dennett, and Lynne Stern, respectively. “Congratulations” to the winning team, Pollard Parents. (Can't help but note that one of them is also a member of Friends of the Library.) ☺



### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

**Tuesday, May 10 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.**

***The Devil in the White City*  
by Erik Larson**

Quoting John Moe on Amazon.com: “Author Erik Larson imbues the incredible events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with such drama that readers may find themselves checking the book's categorization to be sure that *The Devil in the White City* is not, in fact, a highly imaginative novel. Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor.”

The book discussion group, which is sponsored by the trustees of the Needham Public Library with the support of Friends of the Library, meets at the Stephen Palmer Senior Center at 83 Pickering Street during the library's construction project. The Center is handicap accessible.

Participation is open to anyone who has read the book, without registration or fee. New members are always welcome. ✂

### **BOOKS AND OLIN — A GOOD MATCH**

As part of Olin College's recent Big Conversations event, faculty, staff, and students participated in the pricing of books donated to Friends of the Library. Big Conversations, a day devoted to addressing values, this year featured the founder of City Year as keynote speaker, followed by discussion groups and community service projects in the afternoon. Together, the volunteers priced more than an estimated \$2,000 worth of books, the total of the median prices drawn from research on Google. This time-consuming work is of great importance, since individually priced books account for a high percentage of the Friends' book sale revenue. To everyone who assisted in this preparation for the ongoing and scheduled book sales, a huge “thank you”: Rachel Weinstock, co-ordinator of the project and participant; and Leslie Larocca, Jennifer Philip, Stephanie White, Paul Coveney, David Ware, Mark Somerville, Adam J. College, Thomas Cecil, Allen Downey, Amanda Blackwood, Kristen L. Dorsey, Mark Chang, Andrew T. Bouchard, and Emma Goodman. ✂

### **“NO PLACE FOR HATE” CO-SPONSORSHIP**

Friends of the Library joined Needham's Human Rights Committee in sponsoring the March 31 program at Needham High School entitled, “When Hate Comes to Town: How Communities Respond.” Author James S. Hirsch shared insights gained from his research on *Riot and Remembrance: The Tulsa Race War and Its Legacy* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002). More than eighty years after the burning of a predominantly black neighborhood by white citizens, the community could not agree on a description of what had occurred.

For example, were the blacks made homeless by the blaze taken to a ball field with a high fence to *protect* them from mob violence, or to *segregate* them once again? The answer depended upon the race of the respondent, showing how point of view can affect even well-intentioned dialogue. ✂

### **“Fool...” NOW AT LIBRARY**

The Friends donated a copy of the CD, *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship*, to the Library in honor of the recent performance by Solar Winds on March 26 at Olin College. The story, adapted by Laura Barrett from a Russian folk tale and set to music by composer John Kusiak, was narrated by Victor Cockburn. The Friends sponsored the program, which included an introduction to the woodwind instruments featured by the Solar Winds quintet, as well as an opportunity to meet the musicians, composer, author, and narrator. ✂

### **THE McIVER SERIES, NOW AND THEN**

Since 1989, the trustees of the Needham Free Public Library have sponsored annual programs named in honor of Vivian D. McIver. Mrs. McIver’s tenure as director of the Library extended from the construction of the 1961 library addition through the 1988 library centennial year. The programs are always free and open to the public.

There is one program scheduled so far this year, **“O’Keeffe in Bloom,”** on Sunday, **April 24** at 2:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1211 Highland Avenue. Nancy Scott, Ph.D., associate professor of Fine Arts at Brandeis University, presents a lecture with slides on the art of Georgia O’Keeffe. An art historian, her specialty fields are nineteenth century European art and early twentieth century American modernism. Professor Scott’s special research and teaching interests include Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O’Keeffe, and those associated with them.

Of her chosen subjects, like flowers, sea shells, rocks, pieces of wood, and “beautiful white bones on the desert,” O’Keeffe wrote: “I have used these things to say what is to me the wideness and wonder of the world as I live in it.”

All access to the Knights of Columbus Hall, including handicap access, is from the parking lot in the rear.

### ***Recalling 1995***

Ten years ago, the theme of the McIver Series was “Novels Into Film,” presented by Dr. George Bluestone, professor of film at Boston University. Three Sunday afternoon discussions each centered on a book and the movie based upon it: *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, and *The Age of Innocence*. The inevitable question raised at each program must have been, “Which was better, the book or the film?” ✂

### **COMMITTEE TAKING THE LONG VIEW**

In order to maintain eligibility for state and federal grants, all libraries must have an approved Long-Range Plan on file with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Plans are updated every five years, a requirement which applies to the Needham Public Library, even while it is in temporary quarters. A committee, formed in early 2005, has begun examining the role of the library in Needham during the next five years. Members of the committee are: Sally Powers and Tom Harkins from the board of library trustees; Ann MacFate, library director; Catherine Sokol from the library staff; Stuart Chandler, Patricia Henry, Doug Olsen, and Kathy Walsh, current members of the Friends’ board of directors.

### ***Where to begin?***

The committee is following the process outlined in a recent book on library strategic planning, *The New Planning for Results* by Sandra Nelson. Current and projected demographics are reviewed to gain an understanding of the needs of the age groups served by the library, from pre-school and elementary school children, through adolescents, and adults into their senior years. Committee members represent various segments of this wide spectrum. The committee will invite the public to weigh in with observations, and the library staff will be asked to provide input.

At the conclusion of its work, expected to last six months, the committee will present its Long-Range Plan to the library’s board of trustees for approval. Following trustee action, the plan will be sent to the MBLC for review.

### ***Unwise to take the Library for granted***

Although evening hours in the children's department are presently taken for granted, they weren't always the same as in the adult areas. The report of the Long-Range Planning Committee submitted to the library trustees in January 1990 called for various upgrades in the children's room, including an increase in its hours of operation.

However, lean fiscal times in 1990 saw the FinCom's reduction of the library's budget. The failure of the 1990 operational override (by 20 votes) sealed the library's fate: open only 26 hours a week with a zero book budget, the Library was decertified by the MBLC.

Not until restoration of the library's budget could the recommendations of the Long-Range Committee be implemented. Those who visit the children's room in the evening nowadays are indebted to the concerned parents who served on the 1990 committee. ✂

### **INTERESTED in serving on the BOARD of DIRECTORS of Friends of the Library?**

The first thing that comes to mind at mention of Friends of the Library is probably book sales. That's a compliment to our thirty-two years of book recycling through sales that have become a town tradition. Then there are the programs which the Friends offer at no charge. Book sales and programs are the "public face" of the Friends, but there is much more to our work. That's where the board of directors comes in.

#### ***What's involved?***

- Members should try to attend meetings of the board. There are usually 6 between September and June. News from the director of the library about recent developments always adds interest.
- Members choose a committee for active participation. Publicity, marketing, membership, technology, program development, children's programs, hospitality, literary presentations, big events, fundraising, ways and means, and book sales — what suits your interests and talents?
- Members of the board should stay up-to-date in payment of dues.

***How long is a term on the board?*** Usually three years. Or ask about a one-year "get acquainted" term.

#### ***Why now?***

In less than a year, we'll all be borrowing materials from the newly opened Library, browsing at book sales and attending programs in a spacious Community Room. The board has developed a Strategic Plan for the organization in anticipation of new possibilities at the Library. Those willing to not only generate ideas, but also to bring them to fruition will contribute to the Library's new chapter.

#### ***How?***

Please contact the Friends' president, Margaret Pantridge, to express your interest by the third week of May. Leave her a message at 781-433-0314 and she will return your call.

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| THE BOOKBYTE is the newsletter of Friends of the Needham Public Library, 1139 Highland Avenue, 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 |
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