WE’LL SEE YOU SOON! REOPENING PLANS As we were preparing to announce an April reopening date for the Main Library and the Adams Shore Branch, we found out that the long-awaited Main Library carpeting project would be getting underway in early May, forcing us to revise our plans. Luckily, this crazy COVID year has taught us to be nimble and flexible!

By the time you read this, the Adams Shore Branch will be open for browsing, holds pickup, self-serve checkout, computer use, and print service. To begin with, building capacity will be reduced and visits will be limited to 30 minutes to allow more people to visit. Capacity and services will be expanded based on community infection levels and state protocols for libraries.

The Main Library carpet project will take a number of weeks, as it involves some collection and furniture moving followed by removal of the old carpet and glue, preparation of the base floor, gluing down of the new carpet tiles (while cutting around stacks and fixed furnishings), then restoring collections and furniture. The work will be done floor by floor and we hope to reopen part of the building for public access about halfway through the project. We’re sorry to delay even one more day after almost a year of closure, but the carpet project is necessary for safety’s sake—and you will love the new look when you finally do return.

The Wollaston Branch will maintain outside To-Go pickup service only for the time being, as the small size of this facility makes safe social distancing for staff and patrons difficult. We can serve more people via the branch’s To-Go service than by allowing only a handful of visitors at a time inside the building to browse and self-check.

The North Quincy Branch renovation has picked up speed and we expect to reopen that popular location before the end of the summer. Prepare to be wowed!

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IN THE MEANTIME… We have launched several new services:

**TCPL Grab Bags** Do you miss browsing in the library? Fill out an online form on our website to request a Grab Bag and we will select 10-20 items we hope you'll enjoy browsing at home.

**Jigsaw Puzzles** Find a variety of 1,000-piece puzzles in the library catalog by typing “jigsaw puzzle” into the search box. Place a hold, pick up at a Quincy library location, and puzzle at home for two weeks. We’ll be building this collection with more choices and adding puzzle photos to the catalog soon.

**Laptops & Video Conferencing Kits** Working from home? Borrow a Chromebook with mouse and charger or a Video Conferencing Kit complete with mini-ring light and microphone.

**On-Demand Photocopy Service** Stop by the Main Library during the hours of 10 am to 8 pm Monday-Thursday and 10 am to 4 pm Friday and Saturday to get up to 20 single-sided pages free per week.

**ASK US 4 WAYS** We’re available Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm and Friday-Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

- CALL 617-376-1300
- TEXT 857-577-8275
- LIVE CHAT at thomascranelibrary.org
- EMAIL quirc@ocln.org (Borrower Services); quref@ocln.org (Information Services); qujuv@ocln.org (Children’s Services)

Don’t forget to check the website regularly, watch your email, or like us on Facebook so you won’t miss any new hours or service updates.

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TCPL’s New Assistant Director (continued)

She hopes that experience will serve her well as she moves into her new role in Quincy, but also anticipates that TCPL will have plenty to teach her, too. “Even though I’ve only been here for a few days, it’s clear to me that the staff at TCPL are amazing. Their knowledge and passion for their work and this community have really impressed me.” She’s particularly excited to get to work closely with the staff on developing more adult programming and community outreach opportunities.

Kristy originally hails from just outside of Toronto, Canada, and earned a BA in English and History from the University of Toronto. After graduating in 2008, she made her way to New Orleans and worked there for several years in various fields before moving to Boston to pursue an MS in Library and Information Science at Simmons College. She instantly fell in love with New England, particularly its green spaces and charming coastline, and decided to make it her permanent home.

While finishing her degree, Kristy spent a year at the Boston Athenaeum where she worked on the Reference and Circulation Desks, shelved books on ten floors, and learned to tell a good ghost story while leading weekly tours. After graduation she landed a job as Head of Circulation at the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library in Wakefield, which gave her an opportunity to sample life on the North Shore, before finally moving to Weymouth in 2016 and finding a “forever” home on the South Shore.

Kristy still lives in Weymouth with her husband, 18-month-old son, and geriatric cat. She loves spending time outdoors with her family, travelling (when such a thing was possible), cooking, and of course, curling up with a good book. Her favorite of all time is *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier because she has a penchant for creepy books set in ominous manor houses.

Kristy is absolutely thrilled to find herself in the position of Assistant Director at TCPL, a library she has admired from afar for many years as an organization leading the way for other public libraries in the state. And we’re thrilled to have her on board.

**Friends of the TCPL Officers & Board Members**

- Catherine Lynde, *President*
- Bill Mackey, *Vice President*
- Eileen Courtney, *Secretary*
- Nadine Steffan, *Treasurer*
- *Board Members At-Large:*
  - Kimberly Calvi
  - Claire Fitzmaurice
  - Danielle Kempe
  - Kathleen McCormick
  - Betty Molloy
  - Laura Owens (*Newsletter*)
  - Jennifer Sammons
  - Gene Sperry
- Megan Allen, *Library Director (Ex-Officio)*

**Interested in becoming a Friend of the Thomas Crane Public Library?**

Sign up online at: [http://thomascranelibrary.org/friends](http://thomascranelibrary.org/friends)
**Letter from President Catherine Lynde**

Please mark your calendars: We are having our Annual Meeting on May 11th, at 7:00 p.m. It will be virtual, of course. *Boston Globe* columnist Miss Conduct, Robin Abrahams, will talk to us about how to handle annoying neighbors, annoying in-laws, friends' annoying dogs, and much more.

Over the last year, we were thrilled to find that support for the Friends has grown. We now number 525. Our renewal campaign has been more successful than we imagined it could be in these pandemic circumstances; over 80% of you have renewed thus far. We and the Library thank you very much. To join or renew your membership online and pay with a credit card, please choose your membership from the drop down menu at thomascranelibrary.org/friends and click “Join Now”. You can also print a membership form and mail a check, if you prefer.

We are interested in learning how to better communicate with you: mail, email, etc. In February we sent a Communications Survey to all of you for whom we had email addresses asking for your preferences. If you would like to receive our communications, such as our newsletters or renewal notices, by email, please let us know! Send an email to quincylibraryfriends@gmail.com or fill out our survey at http://bit.ly/FOTCPL2021survey.

We’re also making it easier for you to donate to the Friends of Thomas Crane Public Library! We’ve recently partnered with Facebook to make use of their donation tools for nonprofits. Now when you visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/FriendsTCPL you’ll be able to make a monetary donation to the Friends from a button at the top of the page. You can also help us raise money by creating a Facebook fundraiser benefiting the Friends for your birthday (or really anytime!). Best of all, we receive 100% of all donations made through the Facebook platform - no credit card or service fees are deducted.

Your generous support has allowed us to continue offering many engaging educational and musical programs for adults and children over Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook Live. Many of our programs which aired in the past year are available to watch or rewatch on the Library’s YouTube channel. All upcoming programs are listed under the “Events & Classes” tab on the Library’s website. We are also continuing to support the Museum Pass program. The list of available passes can also be found on the Library’s website under the “Events & Classes” tab. We should have more museums available as they reopen in the coming months.

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**Social Media & Website Info**

*Stay connected to the Friends of the TCPL:*

**Facebook:**  www.facebook.com/FriendsTCPL/

**Email:**  quincylibraryfriends@gmail.com

**Website:**  http://thomascranelibrary.org/friends
**Upcoming Events**  All events are online; visit [thomascranelibrary.org](http://thomascranelibrary.org) and click on Events & Classes for more information.

**Children’s Events**
- **Music and Movement with Rubi** (ages 0-4)  Fridays, May 7, 14; June 4, 11 at 10:00 AM
- **Dungeons and Dragons**  Tuesdays, May 18, 25 at 3:00 pm (requires pre-registration)
- **Live Online: Choose Your Own Adventure Read Along**  *(Grades K-3)*  Thursdays, May 27; June 17 at 6:30 PM

**Teen Events**
- **Mindfulness Mondays**  Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 at 3:30 pm
- **Dungeons and Dragons**  Tuesdays, May 18, 25 at 3:00 pm (requires pre-registration)
- **Be the Bridge Youth**  Wednesdays, May 5, 19; June 2 at 7:00 pm (requires pre-registration)
- **Real Talk**  Tuesdays, May 11, 25 at 3:00 pm

**Cultural Events**
- **Author Talk with Holly Nichols - Modern Fashion Illustration**  Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 PM
- **Saying Thank You to the Dog: Etiquette Reflections After a Year of Lockdown with Miss Conduct**  Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM
- **Be Outdoors with the Appalachian Mountain Club**  Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM
- **Author Talk with Caroline Kautsire - What Kind of Girl?**  Monday, May 17 at 7:00 PM

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**Remembrance Fund**  Everyone wants to be remembered, whether it is for a birthday, an anniversary, a special thank you, or an expression of sympathy for the loss of a dear one. If you have such an occasion to remember someone, please use the form on the back page. The donor will receive a receipt and the recipient will be sent a personal acknowledgment.

A donation was recently received for:  **Peggy Doyle**

Thank you for your support of the Friends!
TCPL Garden Notes

“You’re In For A Treat!” Friday, March 26th, a warm and windy afternoon, was the first day of 2021 that Mimi Balsamo and I worked in the Friends’ Gardens. Our first steps were to clean up the ornamental grasses in front of the Coletti Building. Some readers may note that professional landscapers cut such grasses back in the Fall. I just can’t bring myself to do that. I love the look of the golden grasses emerging from a white blanket of snow and blowing in the wind. Then I do not know if there are birds that in late winter may feed on the seed heads. Or others who will use the straw for nesting.

The earliest Spring bulbs are emerging: crocus, daffodils, and dwarf iris. They make a striking contrast to the late winter golden orange of our groundcover Sedum, “Angelina” next to the red orange leaves Heuchera “Caramel”.

Mimi and I were delighted to talk with folks. One faithful patron reported that the plants were fairly jumping up since the last time she had been there just four days earlier. We welcomed a young woman who was walking her dog. She explained that she and her husband had just moved to Quincy and she enjoyed the gardens everyday. I told her “You are in for a Treat!”

So what is in store? In the Atrium Garden, the creeping phlox by our ornamental stone of purple tinged-granite is greening up before showing its lavender blooms. Stop and you will spy the first green tips of our irises and Stella d’Oro lilies. Our one Lenten Rose close to the entrance has been blooming since February! Note the first small starlike flowers emerging on the evergreen Candytuft (Iberis Sempervivum). The Catmints (Nepetas) will have purple blooms soon enough. The pink stems of our Bleeding Hearts (Dicentra) are pushing up. Stand back when Bleeding hearts decide “Now is the time” and enjoy the show. The first red buds on the Knock Out Roses are visible. That means the False Indigo (Baptisia) will be popping up. Watch for the mid and late blooming daffodils which have many color combinations.

In the Peace Garden by the parking lot, there is much to see also in addition to the daffodils and creeping phlox. Evergreen Bergenias are beginning to stand tall before they send up their stalks with bright pink flowers. The red tinge of the winter leaves of the cranesbill geranium will soon give over to many, many small pink flowers. The first Mayflower buds are pushing up and will be joined by the tall stalks of Solomon’s Seal with its drooping white flowers. And it is just beginning! Hip! Hip! Hooray!

If you wish to volunteer in the Friends’ Gardens, contact me directly at artclaire@comcast.net. Thank you!

Claire Fitzmaurice, Garden Coordinator
Did You Know...

The Friends of the TCPL provides Museum and Zoo Passes for discounted admission to:

- Boston Children’s Museum
- Edward M. Kennedy Institute
- Franklin Park & Stone Zoos
- Fuller Craft Museum
- Harvard Art Museums
- Harvard Museum of Natural History & the Peabody Museum
- Heritage Museums & Gardens
- House of the Seven Gables
- Institute of Contemporary Art
- Isabella Stewart Gardiner Museum
- JFK Presidential Library & Museum
- Massachusetts Audubon Society
- Mass Parks
- Museum of Fine Arts
- Museum of Science
- New England Aquarium
- Peabody Essex Museum
- Plimoth Patuxet (formerly Plimoth Plantation)
- Roger Williams Park Zoo
- Trustees of Reservations GO Pass:
  - Appleton Grass Rides
  - Ashley House
  - Bartholomew’s Cobble
  - Bryant Homestead
  - Cape Poge
  - Castle Hill
  - Chesterfield Gorge
  - Crane Beach
  - deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum

Membership Update

With 525 active members, the Friends of the TCPL are stronger than ever. Help us grow ... tell your friends about the Friends!

Welcome to our new members:

- Carolyn Wood
- Robert Woods
- Carrie and William Hamilton/Bardwell
- Maureen Conway
- Joanne Erickson
- Tristan Houlihan
- Verena Jones
- John Keenan
- Elizabeth and Branch Lane
- Hannah Miller
- Vanessa O’Brien
- Joan Pierce
- Kathryn Reilly
- Greg Anderson and Helen Samuels
- Mary Ellen Sinkiewicz
- Julie Streeter

AmazonSmile is an easy way to support the Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library when you shop on Amazon.com. When you use the link below, 0.5% of the value of your purchases will be donated from the AmazonSmile Foundation to the Friends of the TCPL! Bookmark the link and share with friends and family!!

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3103182
Honor Your Loved Ones and Your Library

Remember a loved one or mark a special occasion by making a donation to the Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library.

Donor Name ____________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________

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☐ In memory of _________________________________________

☐ In honor of ___________________________________________

Honoree address (for acknowledgement)

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        40 Washington Street, Quincy, MA 02169