

SPRING
2023



FRIENDS *of the* THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY



From the TCPL Director

The Library is looking forward to summer as we ramp up for summer reading and programming! This summer's theme is *All Together Now* and it will focus on equity and inclusion. We have many exciting programs lined up for all ages.

We are looking forward to our next after hours program which will be **80's themed!** Totally rad! We hope to see you there on Friday, June 16.

Library staff is hard at work developing our Library of Things, designing and planning a MakerSpace, and designing a new Teen Room at the Main Library!

On a personal note, I am coming up on my one year anniversary as the Library Director! This has been a challenging and rewarding year. I am delighted to be serving the Quincy community and am looking forward to many more years.

"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be."

— Douglas Adams, [The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul](#)

Cheers!

Sara Slymon

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, May 9
Friends of the TCPL Annual Meeting
FEATURING:
Historical Interpreter Laura Rocklyn
as Louisa Catherine Adams at 7:00 pm
Business Meeting at 6:30 pm

FRIENDS of the TCPL BOOKSTORE NEWS:

We are delighted to announce that the Book Store will be moving to the Atrium on the first floor of the Main Library in September 2023!

In this new space (formerly the home of the Library Café), the access and visibility to library patrons will be much enhanced. We are looking forward to the ability to partner more actively with the Library Programming Team to support author talks, story times, and other exciting cultural events.

Keep an eye on the Friends social media for opportunities to volunteer at the new book store location in the Fall.

Letter from President Catherine Lynde

Dear Friends,

The Friends of Thomas Crane Library Annual Meeting is coming up; mark your calendar for May 9th at 7:00 pm in the Richardson Room of the main library.

We'll meet Louisa Catherine Adams, the wife of John Quincy Adams, as presented by Laura Rocklyn, the writer of a play about this fascinating member of the Adams family. Louisa was a sophisticated and intelligent partner to our 6th President, and had an exciting and tumultuous life. The historic Richardson Room is the perfect venue for this evening of a delightful and enlightening presentation about a woman we know too little about.

Prior to meeting Louisa, we'll have a short Annual Meeting of the Friends where we'll ask approval of new terms for some of the Executive Board and for a revision of our By-Laws. This will begin at 6:30 pm. There will be light refreshments – of course.

On another note, it was time to update our payment methods at the Friends Bookstore. So, we now take electronic payments - which include credit cards, debit cards, Paypal and Venmo. We had a "soft opening" for a few weeks while making sure the bookstore volunteers got comfortable with these new payment methods. However, rest assured, we still take cash! Although electronic payments are not free, we do pay the smaller nonprofit rate of about 2.3% per transaction. We expect that the increase in convenience offered to bookstore customers will outweigh the revenue loss from the fees.

The Friends annual renewal drive started in December 2022. We sent letters and/or emails to everyone in our database. We heard back from most of you and we thank all of you who renewed your membership.

(continued on next page)

Membership Update

With 620 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:

- ◆ Antonio D. Agcaoili
- ◆ Heather Burris
- ◆ Karen Currie
- ◆ Amanda Ferguson
- ◆ Robert Griffin
- ◆ Sierra Hall
- ◆ Roma and Dirk Hertel
- ◆ Andrew Hunter
- ◆ Phyllis & Joseph Letner
- ◆ Susan McPherson
- ◆ Donna Merrill
- ◆ Robert Norwood
- ◆ Kathleen O'Dell
- ◆ Kathleen O'Neill
- ◆ Moe Palmer
- ◆ Daniel Pawson



Friends Bookstore Volunteer Betty Molloy has recently retired from the Friends of the TCPL Library and Bookstore boards. Thank you Betty, for your many years of service to the library!

From Friends President Lynde

(continued)

We've had a very successful membership campaign thus far. If you are still looking to renew or join, we now have several options:

- ◆ Visit thomascranelibrary.org/friends; choose your membership from the drop down menu and click "Join Now".
- ◆ Print a membership form (or fill out the one on the back page of this newsletter) and mail a check, if you prefer.
- ◆ Visit our Facebook page, facebook.com/FriendsTCPL, where you'll be able to make a donation to the Friends from a button at the top of the page.
- ◆ Create a Facebook fundraiser benefiting the Friends for your birthday (or really anytime!). And, 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 in person and online. Many of our past programs are available to watch or rewatch on the Library's YouTube channel. Details of upcoming programs for Children, Teens and Adults at the "Events & Classes" tab on the Library's website.

We remind you to take advantage of the savings in admission fees available to you through the Friends subsidized Museum Pass program. The list of available passes can be found on the Library's website under the "Services" tab. Get discounted admission to Zoo New England in Franklin Park, the New England Aquarium, or the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum among others.

Friends of the TCPL Officers & Board Members

- * Catherine Lynde, *President*
- * Jennifer Sammons, *Vice President*
- * Eileen Courtney, *Secretary*
- * Nadine Steffan, *Treasurer*
- * *Board Members At-Large:*
 - Gunica Bhatia
 - Heather Caruso
 - Claire Fitzmaurice
 - Erin Kostigen
 - Bill Mackey
 - Hilary Miller
 - Laura Owens (*Newsletter*)
 - Gene Sperry
- * Sara Slymon, *Library Director*
(*Ex-Officio*)



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 *In the Community Room at the Main Library, unless otherwise indicated. Visit thomascranelibrary.org and click on Events Calendar for more information.*

Children's & Teen Events

- ♦ ***Music & Movement with Miss Rubi*** Saturday, May 6 at 10:30 & 11:00 AM
- ♦ ***Preschool Discovery*** (at the Wollaston branch) Thursdays, May 11 and June 8 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ ***Preschool Discovery*** (at the Adams Shore branch) Wednesday, May 17 & June 21 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ ***Preschool Discovery*** (at the North Quincy branch) Saturday, May 20 & June 17 at 10:00 AM
- ♦ ***Preschool Discovery*** Saturday, May 26 & June 24 at 10:00 AM

Cultural Events

- ♦ ***Matinee Movie: Father Stu: Reborn*** Wednesday, May 3 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ ***Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library Annual Meeting and Visit with Louisa Catherine Adams*** Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 PM
- ♦ ***Matinee Movie: Women Talking*** Wednesday, May 10 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ ***Bigfoot in Massachusetts*** Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 PM
- ♦ ***Matinee Movie: A Man Called Otto*** Wednesday, May 17 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ ***Matinee Movie: The Fablemans*** Thursday, May 18 at 2:00 PM at the Adams Shore branch
- ♦ ***Concerts at the Crane: Jean Danton Accompanied by Luke Molloy*** Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ ***Matinee Movie: Alice Darling*** Wednesday, May 24 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ ***Matinee Movie: Knock at the Cabin*** Wednesday, May 31 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ ***Concerts on the Crane Lawn: Scott Woolweaver & Lynn Salmonsens ~ Viola & Piano*** Sunday, June 3 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ ***Music of the West African Kora*** Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 AM
- ♦ ***American Rebels with Nina Sankovich (Online)*** Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 PM
- ♦ ***Film Screening & Discussion: Wild About Harry*** Saturday, June 17 at 2:00 PM



Friends Bookstore Update

Exciting news for the Friends Bookstore: we will be moving to a new home in the atrium of the main library. Details about the move-in date to come!

Through the years, the Friends Bookstore has averaged \$400 per week in sales, for a total of almost \$20,000 per year. Slowly but surely, we are inching back to these sales levels that were interrupted by the extended closure during the COVID-19 pandemic and are optimistic about the coming months. A recent change that will surely expand revenue is that we have started accepting debit and credit card payments in the bookstore. A sale of garden books is ongoing for April on the basis of buy one get one free.

The note cards with the image of our Thomas Crane Library proved very popular and have sold out. We still have prints of the library available for sale that are suitable for framing.

As always, thanks to our customers and the *Quincy Sun* for their continued support. Special thanks to our very hard-working volunteers for their help. The bookstore is still looking for volunteers to work at the bookstore when open and also to help sort the donations at other times. If you are interested, please contact Eunice Charles at eunicecharles3@gmail.com.

Whether you patronize the bookstore or volunteer your time, your contributions are integral to supporting the Friends programming for all ages at the Thomas Crane Public Library!

Friends Bookstore Hours

Thursdays: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Saturdays: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friends of the TCPL Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 pm, Historical interpreter Laura Rocklyn will perform as Louisa Catherine Adams, wife of President John Quincy Adams. The audience meets Louisa Catherine Adams on the morning of John Quincy Adams' inauguration as the sixth President of the United States. Louisa reflects on the events of her life in the public eye. From her childhood in England and France, to her adventures as the wife of an American diplomat in Europe, Louisa's memories provide a glimpse into international politics during the Age of Revolutions.



Laura Rocklyn has performed with theaters across the country and worked as an historical interpreter at museums up

and down the East Coast. Her one-woman play *Charlotte Brontë: To Do More & Better Things* was presented as part of the North American Friends of Chawton House 2021 Speaker Subscription Series, and her play *Emma is Presented in Washington City* was performed as the curtain raiser for the Jane Austen Society of North America 2016 AGM. Laura has published articles in "Brontë Studies" and "The Revere Express." She is a Member of the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company and an Acting Troupe Member with History At Play. Laura holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College and an MFA from The Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University.

TCPL Garden Notes

Library visitors throughout the winter months may have spotted an experiment in our flower beds: we did not do a fall garden clean-up. We did not cut everything back or rake up all the leaves. We left the fall bloomers such as asters, Montauk daisies, and anemones to dry in the beds. Earth scientists have learned that excessive tidiness is not a good thing for native species of birds and insects. This makes so much sense! We hoped birds would find the seeds when they needed them and that the leaf mulch would offer shelter for the insects in the soil.

But spring cleanup is a must. By the end of March, the crocuses have already bloomed and the sedum "Angelina" by the light purple granite stone has its blanket of coppery gold leaves. The earliest daffodils are up and ready to bloom. We began in April by cutting back the truly winter dead to reveal the new green sprouts of our spring-blooming perennials. The April show-stopper is our weeping cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*) in the Peace Garden by the parking lot.

The students of Operation Day's Work, an after school social justice club at Broad Meadows Middle School selected the tree to honor Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani anti-child labor activist who was their friend and inspiration. The bent form of the tree reminded them of his hunched spine that had been deformed from years of being chained to a rug loom before he escaped his indentured servitude. Iqbal was just 13 years old when he was killed in 1995 and the tree will invariably in bloom on the anniversary of his death. Please go to www.odw-usa.org to learn more about Iqbal and the work he has inspired around the world.

We are pleased that the City will continue its annual Cleaner, Greener Quincy event on May 6th from 9:00 am-12pm to noon. I am pleased that The Friends' Gardens will be a designated cleanup site and that we will once again have the enthusiastic labor of the Broad Meadows students. All Friends are welcome to drop by and join the fun.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Friends who have indicated an interest in volunteering with us this summer: Jill Streeter, Angel Mergel, Eric & Deb Hall, and Linda & Tony Monaco. We are glad to have you with us. My garden buddy Mimi Balsamo and I look forward to sharing the wonders of our special corner of Paradise with you. If you wish to join us in the gardens you may reach me at artclaire@comcast.net.

Happy Spring to you all!

Claire Fitzmaurice, Garden Coordinator



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

Sign up online at:

<http://thomascranelibrary.org/friends>

DID YOU KNOW...

The Friends of the TCPL provides 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
 - ⇒ Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate
 - ⇒ Fruitlands Museum
 - ⇒ Halibut Point
 - ⇒ Long Point Beach
 - ⇒ Misery Island
 - ⇒ Mission House
 - ⇒ Monument Mountain
 - ⇒ Naumkeag
 - ⇒ Noanet Woodlands
 - ⇒ Notchview
 - ⇒ Old Manse
 - ⇒ Rocky Woods
 - ⇒ Ward Reservation
 - ⇒ Wasque
 - ⇒ World's End



Butterfly Hollow re-opens at the Franklin Park Zoo on May 27!



Artist Katsushika Hokusai is the subject of the Museum of Fine Arts exhibit "Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence" that explores his impact both during his life and beyond. Reserve the MFA pass for discounted admission through July 16.

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 _____

Telephone # _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Honoree address (for acknowledgement)

Mail to: *Thomas Crane Public Library*
40 Washington Street, Quincy, MA 02169

Attn: Ina Cutler

**Friends of the
Thomas Crane Public Library
40 Washington Street
Quincy, MA 02169**

