

FALL
2023



FRIENDS *of the* THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY



From TCPL Director Sara Slymon

We've had an amazing year at the Thomas Crane Public Library! I was happy to celebrate my one year anniversary in June, and am so grateful to be here serving this vibrant community.

Summer reading was a runaway success this year, with thousands of participants reading, crafting, and winning prizes. The theme was "Find Your Voice," which encouraged children to learn about self-expression and agency. We had multiple performers at all locations and some exciting outdoor activities.

The Friends Book Store moved to the lobby of the main library at the beginning of September. The new space is bright and beautiful with modern graphic designs on the glass doors and a theme of silver and white inside. In an attempt to make the store more accessible to folks on weekdays and evenings, there will be additional hours announced soon. Please stop in to shop, or just to look around. Our friend Kermit the Frog moved with us to the Children's Nook.

Coming soon, we will have books available for purchase in the atrium whenever the library is open, through an honor system. More to come!

A brand new Teen Room opened in September. The room is the first of its kind at the Main Library where we have had many different teen "spaces," but never a dedicated room. Our Teen Librarian runs a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) who consulted on what the teens wanted for the room. They asked for comfortable seating, plants, twinkle lights, and

desktop computers. Through the generous sponsorship of the Library Foundation, we were able to provide all of those things! The room opened on the first day of school, and the teens were thrilled! We have had between 30 and 40 teens after school every day. The teen librarian has been able to offer lots of amazing active and passive programs, all of which have been well attended, and all of which were generously funded by the Friends of the Library, who doubled the teen programming budget this year.

Coming soon, we will be launching a Library of Things. The concept behind a Library of Things is to provide the community with items that they might want to try out before investing in them, or the opportunity to access items that someone might only need once. For example, if a child wants an Elmo cake one year, but a Dora cake the next year, you can borrow the cake pan you need, use it once, and return it! We will be offering tools, a stand mixer, kettle bells, a karaoke machine, pickleball paddles, sewing machines, typewriters, and many more fun items.

Happy Autumn!



Letter from President Catherine Lynde

I hope you've noticed the new location of the Friends Bookstore in the library atrium. It's a lovely, warm and inviting space. We're very excited to have a more visible space with more foot traffic. We had a ribbon cutting and grand opening on September 5th; Mayor Koch, Senator Keenan, and one hundred other folks attended. It was a joyous occasion – with puppets and refreshments too.

In hopes that we will be able to expand the bookstore hours, the Friends called for additional volunteers. We are delighted that several dozen responded! We are now in the process of figuring out what those new hours are going to be, and training these new recruits. By the time you get this newsletter, we should be open additional hours beyond the current Thursday 6:00-8:00 pm and Saturday 9:30 am to 3:30 pm hours.

The Friends annual membership renewal drive starts in November. Please look for an email or letter from us asking you to renew your membership. As you know, your contribution supports important community programs such as music, films, subsidized museum passes, lectures and activities for all ages in all the branches.

We have several options for renewal:

- ◇ Visit thomascranelibrary.org/friends; choose your membership from the drop down menu and click "Join Now".
- ◇ Print a membership form 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!).



The Friends also recently welcomed two new Executive Board members:

Jacqueline (Jackie) Rector is from St. Louis, MO. She works as an Archivist for the Adams National Historical Park. Prior to that, Jackie was a Physical Anthropologist/Archivist for the Army Corps of Engineers for seven years. She has a Masters in Forensic/Physical Anthropology and is excited to join us in supporting our community library.

Ken Shurtluff is a Quincy kid who ended up owning music stores in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh areas. He now is a regional sales representative for two independent music distribution companies. In his spare time, Ken referees volleyball games. He joins the Board after working at the Friends bookstore as a media specialist for five years.

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
 - Claire Fitzmaurice
 - Erin Kostigen
 - Lisa Laing
 - Hilary Miller
 - Laura Owens (*Newsletter*)
 - Jackie Rector
 - Ken Shurtluff
 - Gene Sperry
- * Sara Slymon, *Library Director (Ex-Officio)*

Friends of the TCPL Bookstore Grand Re-Opening



TCPL Director Sara Slymon, Senator John Keenan, Mayor Thomas Koch, Friends of the TCPL President Catherine Lynde, and TCPL Deputy Director Kristy Lockhart cut the ribbon for the new Bookstore.



Patrons happily browsing the selection in the new Friends Bookstore



The doors of the new Friends Bookstore have welcoming messages in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

Bookstore Volunteers Needed

The bookstore is looking for volunteers to work during the hours the bookstore is open to the public. Volunteers are also needed to help sort book donations at other times, including Chinese language books.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Eunice Charles at eunicecharles3@gmail.com.

Social Media & Website Info

Stay connected to the Friends of the TCPL:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendsTCPL/

Email:
quincylibraryfriends@gmail.com

Website:
<http://thomascranlibrary.org/friends>

Friends of the TCPL Bookstore Grand Re-Opening (Continued)

Bookstore Donations Needed!

Are you doing some Fall cleaning before the holidays? Do you need to make room for new reading options? Consider donating your gently used titles to the Friends Bookstore! The Bookstore is especially interested in contemporary and classic adult fiction.

Donations can be dropped off in the bin located in the Main Library atrium during the library's regular hours.



Friends Bookstore **Coupon**

*Redeem this coupon
for \$1 off Children's
titles at the new
Bookstore location!*



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 in honor of Ina Cutler
- ♦ A donation was recently received in memory of Isadore Zack

Thank you for your support of the Friends!

Membership Update

With over 600 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:

- ♦ Joseph D. Buckley, Jr.
- ♦ Allison Law
- ♦ Laura Lebo

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

Sign up online at:

<http://thomascranelibrary.org/friends>

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Friends Updated information can be found on the TCPL Events Calendar: <https://thomascranelibrary.org/events-calendar>

Children's & Teen Events

- ♦ **Music & Movement with Miss Rubi (Ages 0-2)** Saturdays, November 4; December 2; January 6; February 3; March 2 at 10:30 am
- ♦ **Music & Movement with Miss Rubi (Ages 3-6)** Saturdays, November 4; December 2; January 6; February 3; March 2 at 11:15 am
- ♦ **Meet Tracy Triceratops (Ages 4 and up)** Saturday, November 4, 2:00 pm at North Quincy
- ♦ **Teen & Tween Open Gaming (with VR)** Monday, November 6, 3:00 pm
- ♦ **Preschool Discovery (ages 3-5)**
 - At Wollaston: Thursdays, November 9; December 14; January 11; February 8; March 14 at 3:00 pm
 - At Adams Shore: Wednesdays, November 15; December 20; January 17; February 21; March 20 at 3:00 pm
 - At North Quincy: Saturdays, November 18; December 16; January 20; February 17; March 23 at 10:00 am
 - At the Main Library: Saturdays November 25; December 23; January 27; February 24; March 16 at 10:00 am



Cultural Events

- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Smoke Signals** Wednesday, November 1, 2:00 pm
- ♦ **Autumn Literary Harvest: Fresh Creations from the New England Indie Authors Collective** Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 pm
- ♦ **Noirvember: Sunset Boulevard** Thursday, November 9, 6:00 pm
- ♦ **Concerts at the Crane: Marcus Johnson** Sunday, November 12, 3:00 pm
- ♦ **Make a Gratitude Jar** Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 pm
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Indian Horse** Wednesday, November 15, 2:00 pm
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Ticket to Paradise** Thursday, November 16, 2:00 pm at Adams Shore
- ♦ **Adams' Cousin Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy** Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 pm
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Woman Walks Ahead** Wednesday, November 22, 2:00 pm
- ♦ **Eliminate Clutter Once and For All** Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 pm
- ♦ **Noirvember: In a Lonely Place** Thursday, November 30, 6:00 pm
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning, Part 1** Wednesday, December 6, 2:00 pm
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Barbie** Wednesday, December 13, 2:00 pm
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Oppenheimer** Wednesday, December 20, 2:00 pm
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret** Thursday, December 21, 2:00 pm at Adams Shore
- ♦ **Movie Matinee: Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny** Wednesday, December 27, 2:00 pm

TCPL Garden Notes

A Brief History of Beloved Lavender Plants Our most frequently asked question this summer was, "What happened to the beautiful lavender plants that were near the front doors to the Atrium and the Children's Room?" Despite the best efforts of Mimi Balsamo and myself over the summer to encourage them, they failed fast and had to be removed in August. Like most beloved friends who have passed, their absence is noted.

The lavender plants have a long history, beginning in Winter 2012, when the Department of Public Works announced that grant money would be made available for civic beautification by Quincy residents who wished to improve city properties in their neighborhoods. I had watched with dismay as the flower beds at the new wing of the TCPL had fallen into a sad state of neglect, so I submitted an application with a maintenance plan that brought together three different groups: the Friends, the Wollaston Garden Club, and Broad Meadows Middle School students from Operation Days' Work.

We received a grant of \$500 in the form of a Home Depot gift card and three partners also chipped in approximately \$1,000. With such generous support, we not only redesigned the Peace Garden and planted the Peace Pole, but also had money to expand the project to include the long extension of the Atrium gardens in front of the Coletti wing. In 2013, we received another DPW grant to fill in the bed in front of the Atrium. The English lavender plants (*Lavandula "Hidcote"*) that we planted in 2012 were very successful, so we planned to have more of the same. In the first few years, the new plants kept growing and growing to be almost twice the size of the originals. We determined that our newer plants were actually *Lavandula "Grosso,"* plants having a typical lifespan of 10 years, while English lavender lives for 10-15 years.

Longtime patrons know that our *Lavandula "Grossos"* have been truly spectacular! Each summer, we harvest the flowers and the dried buds fill sachets sewn by Wollaston Garden Club members. These are sold as gift items at the Wollaston Garden Club's Winter Greens Sale in December and the proceeds are then used for civic beautification around the City.

By the Summer of 2023, our *Lavandula "Grosso"* plants were 11 years old and had suffered a tough year. The drought of 2022 extended into the winter of 2023, which had much below average snowfall. Toss in the brutal February cold snap (-14 degrees F!) and it is not a wonder that the plants suffered badly. We managed a small harvest this year before we uprooted the plants.

What made their passing especially sad was that they were showstoppers in 2020 and 2021 when the flower stalks grew to be almost 48 inches tall. I showed up one Thursday and they had grown so much in one week that I burst out laughing! I believe that the Covid lockdown gave them the atmospheric conditions to grow massively. The decrease in air pollution in the Spring of 2020 was well documented and may have resulted in cleaner rainfall.

The Friends wish to thank the Wollaston Garden Club for their donation in August of new *Lavandula "Grosso"* plants that were purchased from the Cape Cod Lavender Farm in Harwich. They look small now but let's be patient. We will take great care to winter them over with a good layer of mulch. Let's hope we have healthy plants that will thrive in their special spot. We are at the start of a new adventure.

Claire Fitzmaurice, Garden Coordinator



DID YOU KNOW...

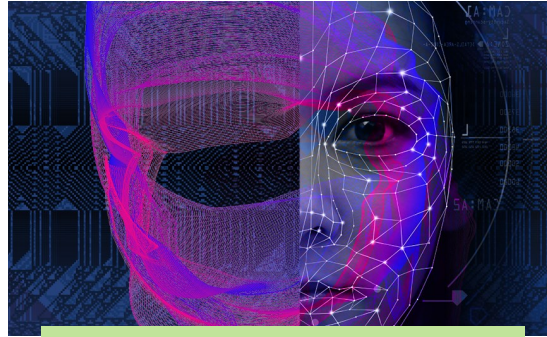
The Friends of the TCPL provides Museum and Zoo Passes for discounted admission to:

- ♦ Boston Children's Museum
- ♦ Franklin Park & Stone Zoos
- ♦ 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 Gardner Museum
- ♦ Mass Parks
- ♦ Museum of Fine Arts
- ♦ Museum of Science
- ♦ New Bedford Whaling Museum
- ♦ New England Aquarium
- ♦ Peabody Essex Museum
- ♦ Plimoth Patuxet Museums (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



Exploring AI: Making the Invisible Visible at the Museum of Science



Experience fall at Plimoth Patuxet Museums

Visit <https://thomascranelibrary.org/museum-zoo-passes/> to reserve your passes today.

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: Friends of the TCPL/Ina Cutler

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

