

SPRING  
2024



# FRIENDS *of the* THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY



## From the TCPL Director

XXXX

Cheers!

*Sara Slymon*

**SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, May 14**  
**Friends of the TCPL Annual Meeting**  
**FEATURING:**  
**Culinary Educator Adam Centamore**  
**From Bean to Bar ~ the Fascinating**  
**History and Production of Chocolate**  
**at 7:00 pm**  
**Business Meeting at 6:30 pm**

## 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*)
  - Jacqueline Rector
  - Ken Shurtluff
  - Gene Sperry
- \* Sara Slymon, *Library Director (Ex-Officio)*



## Letter from President Catherine Lynde

Dear Friends,

The Friends of TCPL will meet in the Community Room of the main library for our Annual Meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 14. Local culinary educator Adam Centamore will be giving us a delightful “History of Chocolate and Its Production.” He is a well-known author who has made numerous presentations about food, wine, pairing wine and food, and, of course, chocolate. He’ll also give us a taste of the really, really good stuff. This should be a wonderfully entertaining evening!

Prior to the chocolate, starting at 6:30 pm, we’ll have our Annual Business Meeting of the Friends. We’ll ask approval for new terms for some of the Executive Board and for our Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. We’ll also spend a few minutes bringing you up to date on the changes in the last year.

As you may already know, we lost three valued members of the Friends this past winter: Betty Malloy, Bill Mackey, and Harold Crowley, who together had close to 100 total years of volunteer work for the Friends – especially for the Bookstore. We are in the process of acquiring a plaque to honor and commemorate them, which will be placed in the Bookstore.

I hope you have noticed the successful relocation of the Bookstore and the expanded hours. There are now about fifty volunteers trained to staff the Bookstore. We have also seen our revenues rise substantially – both because of the move and the expanded use of electronic payments. There are now paperbacks in the atrium that are available even when the bookstore is closed (payment is on the honor system). There is also a bin in the atrium where you can leave donations of gently-used books and CDs.

*(continued on next page)*

## Membership Update

With 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:**

- ◆ 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



Use the QR code to make a donation or renew your membership!



## Social Media & Website Info

***Stay connected to the Friends of the TCPL:***

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/FriendsTCPL/](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsTCPL/)

**Email:** [quincylibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:quincylibraryfriends@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://thomascranelibrary.org/friends>

## From Friends President Lynde

*(continued)*

We have also prepared new bookmarks for the Friends which are now available in the bookstore and list our expanded hours.

Our Friends annual renewal drive started in November 2023. 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. Of the approximately six hundred members, we've gotten renewals for close to 50%, so a successful campaign thus far.

We have several options to renew or join:

- ◆ Visit [thomascranelibrary.org/friends](http://thomascranelibrary.org/friends); choose your membership from the drop down menu and click "Join Now" or print a membership form the and mail a check, if you prefer.
- ◆ Visit our Facebook page, [facebook.com/FriendsTCPL](https://facebook.com/FriendsTCPL), where you'll be able to make a donation to the Friends from a button at the top of the page.
- ◆ Use our new QR code!



In addition, you can 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 programs for adults and children in person and online. Many of our programs are available to watch or rewatch on the Library's YouTube channel. Check out the upcoming programs for Children, Teens, and Adults at the "Events & Classes" tab on the Library's website and stay connected.

## 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.*

*Donations were recently received in memory of Bill Mackey from:*

- ◆ Irene Atkinson
- ◆ Marianne & Salvatore Balsamo
- ◆ Eunice Charles
- ◆ Conant Road Neighbors
- ◆ Mark & Gail Horne
- ◆ Jean Mackey
- ◆ Margaret Mahoney
- ◆ Karen O'Brien & Kevin Hoar
- ◆ The Slattery Family

*In addition, former Library Director Megan Allen sent donations in memory of Harold Crowley, Bill Mackey, and Betty Molloy.*

*Thank you for your support of the Friends!*



### **Bookstore Donations Needed!**

***Are you doing some Spring cleaning to make room for new reading options? Consider donating your gently used titles to the Friends Bookstore! The Bookstore is interested in books, CDs, and DVDs. Donations can be dropped off in the bin located in the Main Library atrium during the library's regular hours.***

***\*No textbooks or encyclopedias please!\****

## Upcoming Events *At the Main Library, unless otherwise indicated.*

Visit [thomascranelibrary.org](http://thomascranelibrary.org) and click on Events Calendar for more information.

### Children's & Teen Events

- ♦ **Teen Comic Book & Bites Club** Thursdays, April 25 & May 16 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ **Preschool Discovery** Saturdays, April 27, May 25 & June 22 at 10:00 AM
- ♦ **Music & Movement with Miss Rubi** Saturdays, May 4 & June 1 at 10:30 & 11:15 AM
- ♦ **Preschool Discovery** (at the Wollaston branch) Thursdays, May 9 and June 13 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ **Preschool Discovery** (at the Adams Shore branch) Wednesdays, May 15 & June 21 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ **Preschool Discovery** (at the North Quincy branch) Saturdays, May 18 & June 15 at 10:00 AM
- ♦ **Teen Open Gaming with One Up Games** Tuesday, May 21 at 3:00 PM

### Cultural Events

- ♦ **Concerts at the Crane: Wayman Chin** Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ **Paint & Mocktail Night:** Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 PM, North Quincy Branch Community Meeting Room
- ♦ **Matinee Movie: Dumb Money** Wednesday, April 24 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ **Foreign Film Friday: The Sea Inside** Friday, April 26 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ **Audio Described Movie: Big Hero 6** Friday, May 3 at 2:00 PM
- ♦ **Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library Annual Meeting with Adam Centamore presenting From Bean to Bar ~ the Fascinating History and Production of Chocolate** Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 PM (Business Meeting) and 7:00 PM (presentation)
- ♦ **Matinee Movie: What Happens Later** Wednesday, May 15 at 10:00 AM at the North Quincy branch
- ♦ **Concerts at the Crane: Roman Rudnytsky** Sunday, May 19 at 3:00 PM
- ♦ **Craft & Snacks for Adults** Wednesday, May 22 at 6:00 PM at the Wollaston branch
- ♦ **Matinee Movie: Theater Camp** Wednesday, June 12 at 10:00 AM at the North Quincy branch



#### Friends Bookstore Hours

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 12:30 to 3:30 pm**

**Thursdays: 5:00 to 8:00 pm**

**Saturdays: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm**





## In Memoriam

In December 2023 and January 2024, the Friends lost three people who were instrumental in making the Friends the group that it is today. They are remembered for their generous acts of service for our community. We will miss them.

**Harold Crowley** was a founding member and the first President of the Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library. He also served on the Board of Trustees for the Library. He was dedicated to improving the services and programs offered at the library and the impact that this could have on our community. Harold helped the Friends to organize a permanent bookstore at the library and enjoyed his time volunteering in the Bookstore and on the Bookstore Committee.



**Bill Mackey** served as a long-time Friends board member and was an integral part of the Bookstore operations. Bill generously volunteered his time sorting book donations and working in the Bookstore. He acted as a liaison between the Bookstore and the Friends Board, reporting each month on events and themed book sales that would be happening in the bookstore. Bill was an avid reader of historical nonfiction and took a special interest in this section of the bookstore.



**Betty Molloy** was a member of the Friends Board and served as our Board President from 2011- 2014. She was a founding member of the Bookstore Committee and cared greatly for the service that the Bookstore provided to our community and for the programs that the book sales funded. She took a special interest in children's books and carefully arranged this section of the bookstore. Each bookstore anniversary was an important milestone for the Friends and Betty would see to it that it was celebrated.



## TCPL Garden Notes

### **OUR "MESSY" WINTER GARDENS EXPLAINED**

Regular patrons of the Library may have noticed that the Flower Beds were not tidied up this past fall. This was a deliberate choice, since climate change has required us to reconsider our relationship with our planet and our very local patches of it. A garden is alive with insects and birds in addition to flowers, so we left the fall perennials such as *Anemones*, *Asters*, *Echinacea*, *Rudbeckia*, and *Sedums* with their seed heads aloft for birds to eat. We chose not to rake up fallen leaves so as not to disturb the beneficial insects that shelter under it. Some of the dead dried plant leaves and stems provide nesting materials as well.

Mimi Balsamo and I will be starting our 13th season as stewards of the library gardens very soon. Ecological concerns have required us to rethink how we garden. When we began, it was customary to tidy up flower beds and set them to rest for the winter. We would cut back perennials to the ground, rake and bag as much as we could. We are learning that we do not always have to dominate but can learn to coexist with our natural world. Knowing what we know now, we are glad that we never got in the habit of using pesticides at home before we started gardening here.

March is always a frustrating month for New England gardeners who are itching to get outside to turn the soil and plant. We know that a late season blizzard is always a possibility although that did not come to pass this year. Spring is here... Hooray!

If you wish to join us in the gardens you may reach me at [artclaire@comcast.net](mailto:artclaire@comcast.net).

**Claire Fitzmaurice, Garden Coordinator**

### **Friends of the TCPL Annual Meeting**

On Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm, Adam Centamore will present *From Bean to Bar - The Fascinating History and Production of Chocolate*. Chocolate is one of the most-loved foods in the world, with a global popularity that is nearly unmatched. Surprisingly, most people don't know what makes it tick. Where did it originate? How is it made? Are there really Oompa-Loompas singing somewhere? Spend an evening with culinary educator and author (and chocolate fiend) Adam Centamore learning all about chocolate.

From its Meso-American roots to the 19th century European craze even the Beatles couldn't dream of, there's so much to know. We'll discuss the origins of chocolate, how it is made, what makes good chocolate so much better than bad chocolate, and other morsels. Of course, you'll get to sample some extremely delicious chocolates to make sure it all makes sense. It's sure to be an experience even Willy Wonka would approve of!

*Adam Centamore is a culinary educator, writer, and journalist with nearly 20 years and thousands of events under his belt. His book, Tasting Wine & Cheese - An Insider's Guide to Mastering the Principles of Pairing was a finalist for the IACP book of the year, and his writing has appeared in Saveur, Culture Cheese Magazine, Edible South Shore, and other online and print publications. He lives in Quincy with his family, and can be reached through his website [www.eatdrinklearn.com](http://www.eatdrinklearn.com), or on Instagram at @eatdrinklearn.*

# DID YOU KNOW...

*The Friends of the TCPL provides 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 England Aquarium
- ◆ New Bedford Whaling Museum
- ◆ 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



*Butterfly Hollow re-opens at the Franklin Park Zoo in May!*



*From Stories Artists Tell: Art of the Americas, the 20th Century. Reserve the MFA pass for discounted admission.*

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                      Attn: Ina Cutler*  
*40 Washington Street, Quincy, MA 02169*

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

