

FFPL



Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

Newsletter

Winter into Spring 2014

President
Nancy English

Editor
Marilyn Sanborn

There's always a place for everyone in fair weather or foul

It's open every day except Sunday and the staff is ready to serve you

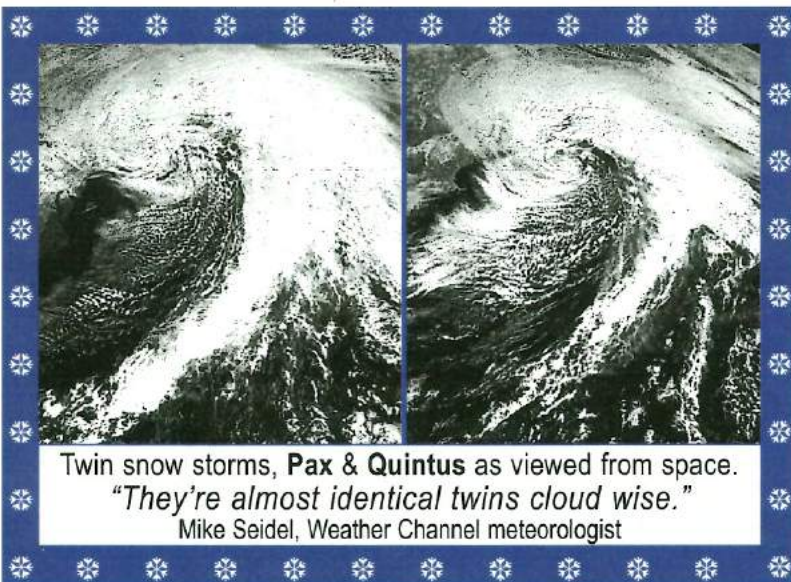
It snowed and it snowed and it snowed, and inside the Falmouth Public Library the fire was so delightful and the chairs were so inviting. Programs continued and people kept coming. Great Decisions flourished on Wednesday nights, the Children's Room had its usual groups of lap babies, tots and tales and children building with Legos. Both the fiction and the nonfiction book clubs were up and running. The Genealogical Society was on hand to help patrons trace their ancestry every Tuesday afternoon.

The snow turned to rain, the rain turned to slush, and then it snowed again. The meetings in the library went on as usual. You could have Breakfast with Yeats and hear his poetry read. The Children's Room had a Spanish class and a time to learn nursery rhymes. Technical Services began a whole new way of handling library materials. The Friends went on sorting and pricing the book donations. The Book Nook was always open for patrons to browse and buy. The Falmouth Reads Together program was offering two of the Frankenstein films as well as a panel discussion titled "Understanding the Other: the Human in the Monster, the Monster in the Human."

February turned to March and patrons received a new schedule of Joy of Learning classes. The Friends newsletter was mailed to over 400 members.

The Children's Room offered music to move by for the pre-school crowd. Science Before Supper, the MBL Lecture Series, presented Welcome To The Platisphere.

The CEO of Amazon just doesn't understand. Libraries are not just places where you can take out books. Because they are public and free, they represent the democratic ideal at its finest. They are the center of the community. Jeff Bezos is just a little man who has gotten too big for his britches. Get rid of librarians? Perhaps he had better look at their record when the library is threatened. He won't win this one.



Twin snow storms, Pax & Quintus as viewed from space.
"They're almost identical twins cloud wise."
Mike Seidel, Weather Channel meteorologist



Joy of Learning

Spring Schedule 2014



Please See Details Inside



Joy of Learning



The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will offer five new courses which will begin Monday, April 7th, 2014. The classes are free and open to the public.

Mondays: 2:00 - 3:00 pm - April 7, 14, 21, 28 -Hermann Room NEW

A Walk On The Dark Side: Human Nature and International Politics

In this series we will look at the long history of writings on humans in societal groups or nations interacting, usually badly, with each other. This will lead us to considering whether or not things will ever change. Among the writers and thinkers we will give greatest consideration to are Thucydides, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, and Alexander Hamilton. Yes, we will even consider in this great land of opportunity and optimism the pessimists among us. No happy ending promised.

Michael T. Corgan Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Director of Undergraduate Studies Department of International Relations Boston University

Tuesdays: 10:15 - 11:15 am - April 8, 15, 22, 29 -Bay Room

MOVIES, MOVIES, MOVIES (THRILLERS)

- The Eye Of The Needle: Donald Sutherland, Kate Nelligan (1981)
- Black Sunday: Robert Shaw, Bruce Dern, Marthe Keller (1977)
- Boys From Brazil: Gregory Peck, Laurence Olivier, Lily Palmer, James Mason (1978)
- The Parallax View: Warren Beatty, Paula Prentiss, William Daniels (1974)

Fred Gitlitz B.A. Colgate, M.A. Columbia University, Ph.D. Columbia University

Tuesdays: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm - April 8, 15, 22, 29, -Bay Room

VIGNETTES IN HISTORY

"1968": a tumultuous year, a seizure of an American Ship, an unpopular war, a dysfunctional Democratic Party, a police riot in a major American city, a shocking display at the Summer Olympics, and the assassination of two American leaders

- The Rape of Nanking (1937-38) • The Plight of The Gypsies • Armenian Genocide

Fred Gitlitz B.A. Colgate, M.A. Columbia University, Ph.D. Columbia University

Wednesdays: 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm - April 9, 16, 23, 30 -Bay Room

ANTON CHEKHOV: The Sea Gull and selected short stories

(Please note this class is limited to 20 participants enrolled on a first come first served basis. Sign up at the Reference Desk)

Robert Szulkin, Professor Emeritis Brandeis University, M.A. Harvard University, Ph.D. Harvard University

Thursdays 11:00 am- 12 noon - April 10, 17, 24, May 1 -Bay Room NEW

Ethical Decision Making and Dilemmas within Contemporary Health Issues

We will consider genetic testing, organ transplantation, and end of life issues including medication choices, artificial nutrition and hydration, and assisted dying. This course should appeal to those who are reading Frankenstein as part of the Falmouth Reads Together program.

Meredith E. Presbrey: Master of Divinity Harvard , Doctorate of Ministry Graduate Theological Foundation. Ms Prebrey has served on two Hospital Ethics Committees (5 years at Falmouth) and led Bioethics Courses at the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

All classes held at the Falmouth Public Library. Tuesday and Wednesday classes will be held before the regular Library hours. You will enter on Katharine Lee Bates Road by the door at the end of the library close to the trash enclosure.

Please find the Registration Form on next page.

Additional registration forms are available to the public at the circulation desk at the Main Library and at the branches as well.

Major Change in the Library World

New Faces, Work Spaces, and Interfaces in Technical Services

One does not often hear very much about what's going on in the Technical Services Department of the Falmouth Public Library, where library materials are ordered, cataloged, and physically prepared for circulation. However, there have been quite a few changes of late.

Fran Bordonaro's retirement last April started a series of staffing changes. Kim DeWall took over for Fran, Darryl duRivage filled the position that Kim held, and Darryl's former position was filled by Maren Plueddemann. (...and let us not forget the other faces in Technical Services: Kat Renna, Laurie McNee, and Nick McCavitt!)

These staffing changes occurred during a major change in the library world: the implementation of a wholly new way of describing and representing library materials. All library materials are described through standardized methods in an effort to make them accessible to you, our patrons. The Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR) that were developed in 1968 and revised in 1978 (AACR2) served as the main standard until 2013, at which time the standards were replaced by Resource Description and Access (RDA). Why the change? According to the American Library Association, "One of the goals for RDA is to create a single standard for cataloging all types of resources, both analog and digital, so that records for all materials will be compatible" ([http:// www.alp.org/alcts/ano/v16/n6/nws/rdaqs](http://www.alp.org/alcts/ano/v16/n6/nws/rdaqs)). In other words, it's a "technical" issue, but it essentially enables more materials (even digital) to be discoverable by our patrons. Just imagine all the different material formats since 1968: CDs, microfilm, VHS, DVDs, eBooks, and the list continues to grow thanks to the ever-changing nature of technology!

Also new to Technical Services and other FPL staff, such as Circulation Services, is our integrated library system (ILS), known as Sierra, which is essentially the behind the scenes database that informs the OPAC, the online public access catalog, that patrons search in order to locate materials. A far cry from the days when the public used to flip through the card catalog, our new ILS allows those who search the catalog, not only to see the graphics of bookjackets, but to find out what titles other libraries on the Cape own, as well as to request new titles!

Feel free to drop by Technical Services, located on the left just before the Children's Room, to meet the staff or learn more about what they do!

~ Kim DeWall - Head of Technical Services

CUT OUT HERE



Joy of Learning REGISTRATION FORM

TO REGISTER: Send your selections with your name, address and phone number to:
Joy of Learning, Post Office Box 480, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541 or drop off at Reference Desk.
Please keep course descriptions as your record.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

I wish to enroll in the following course (or courses):

☐ (1) Dark Side

☐ (2) MOVIES!

☐ (3) History: 1968

☐ (4) Chekhov

☐ (5) Decisions & Dilemmas

Children's Programs

MUSIC & MOVEMENT PLAYGROUP



11:00 to 11:50 AM ~ FRIDAYS

A playgroup for parents and children ages 2½ to 5 years. Please register with the Coalition for Children.

Contact: Coalition for Children
508-548-0151 Ext. 172

Let the Children Play
and Learn with these
Seven Interesting,
Educational and
FUN courses
held in the
Children's Room.

LAP BABIES



9:45 to 10:15 AM ~ THURSDAYS

A playgroup for parents and babies, ages birth through 14 months. Please register with the Coalition for Children.

Contact: Coalition for Children
508-548-0151 Ext. 172

TOTS 'N TALES

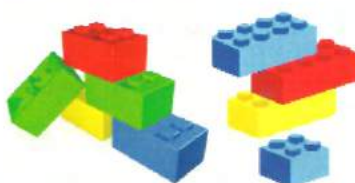


10:00 to 10:45 AM ~ FRIDAYS

Stories, music and movement for toddlers and their siblings. For ages 15 months to 3 years. Drop in!

For more information:
fplchildrens@falmouthpubliclibrary.org
or call the Children's Department at
508-547-2555 Ext. 5

AFTERSCHOOL LEGO CLUB



4:00 to 5:00 PM ~ TUESDAYS

For ages 5 and up. Drop in
and please leave your
Legos at home.

For more information:
fplchildrens@falmouthpubliclibrary.org
or call the Children's Department at
508-547-2555 Ext. 5

NURSERY RHYME TIME



9:45 to 10:15 AM ~ MONDAYS

Songs, fingerplays and stories in
this lap sit program. For ages birth
to 2 years. Drop in!

For more information:
fplchildrens@falmouthpubliclibrary.org
or call the Children's Department at
508-547-2555 Ext. 5

HOLA SPANISH FOR KIDS



10:00 to 10:45 AM ~ MARCH 15, 22 and 29

Through music, stories, games and dance, your child will
become familiar with the language very naturally, from a
native Spanish speaker.

For more information please go to: holaspanishforkids.com

This program is sponsored by the Early Childhood
Resource Center at Falmouth Public Library

PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME



10:30 to 11:15 AM ~ THURSDAYS

Stories, songs and a craft, as well as early literacy tips
and book suggestions for parents.

For ages 3 to 5 years. Drop in!

For more information please:
fplchildrens@falmouthpubliclibrary.org
or call the Children's Department at 508-547-2555 Ext. 5

The Children's Department of the Falmouth Public Library is excited to announce the addition of 5 ipads to the Children's Room. The Aghababian family graciously donated the funds for the ipads and associated accessories, in memory of their son, Ron. Their expressed wish was that the new technology be used in support of early literacy in Falmouth. The ipad early literacy program made its debut in January, with a Happy Appy PJ Storytime presented by Children's Room staff Donna Skinner and Laura Ford. In the continuing future, the ipads will be used to promote and model best practices for using technology with children, and to present young patrons with an opportunity to experience technology they might not have access to elsewhere. The staff is also in the process of reviewing and evaluating apps for the ipads, and making recommendation lists for parents and caregivers interested in navigating the wide array of apps available.

~ Laura Ford, *Children's Librarian*

The Behemoth Everyone Loves to Hate amazon.com

If you have any ties to the book business at all or you are worried about your independent bookstore, you are apt to shudder when you hear the name Amazon. The changes did not come slowly. They came bang bang bang, and you had better have been on your toes. Distributors describe negotiating with Amazon like "having dinner with the Godfather." Publishers, who suffer from the high "co-op fees" they must pay Amazon so that the latter can keep their bookprices lower than anybody else's (*so that's how they do it?*), know better than to complain. Retaliation will come quickly, and it will hurt.

The New Yorker has just done one of their unsurpassed in depth articles on Amazon (Feb. 17 and 24, 2014) by George Packer, and none of it could be called pretty if you care about books. Amazon's CEO, Jeff Bezos, a Princeton graduate who quit his job with a hedge fund to found his own company in Seattle, belongs back with the robber barons according to some, except that that group looks mild compared with today's version. His preference for hiring "introverted, detail-oriented, engineer type personalities rather than musicians, designers and "salesman" is determined by testing. These employees, when asked to justify Amazon's rising co-op fees, simply say, "Look, its the cost of doing business." One of the Amazon insiders was heard to say, "Its easier for us to sell books and make books happen if we do it our way and not deal with others ...we think we can do it better."

Bezos believes that small publishers should be approached the way "a cheetah would pursue a sickly gazelle." Denis Johnson, co-owner of a small publishing firm, fought back and had his BUY buttons removed from his House's titles the next day. According to Bezos, everything was to be done for the consumer. He has no use for unions as they are not good for the consumer, Amazon considers unions "to be obstacles that would impede its ability to improve customer service."

The New Yorker article sums up Amazon neatly. It is "a global superstore, like Walmart. It's also a hardware manufacturer, like Apple, and a utility, like Con Edison, and a video distributor, like Netflix, and a book publisher, like Random House, and a production studio, like Paramount, and a literary magazine like The Paris Review, and a grocery deliverer like Fresh Direct, and someday it might be a package service like UPS." It's the Everything Store! And ultimately, in the not too distant future, Amazon is planning to deliver their packages by drones. I hope I am still around when the first drone lands on my deck. That will be a lot more fun than driving on the same road with driverless trucks.
~ Marilyn Sanborn, *Editor*



Thanksgiving in Iceland

A chance to go to Iceland over Thanksgiving was an opportunity I could not refuse. The Falmouth Public Library was a major source in my preparations. When I did a catalogue search I found 157 entries for Iceland, which I narrowed down to the 57 at the main Library.

My first books came from the children's room where I found two good and recent books that I checked out. I first read ICELAND by Jennifer A. Miller, published in 2011 (J914.91). That was followed by ICELAND by Barbara A. Somervill found in the new section as it was published in 2013 (J914.91). Once again I found children's books not only to be informative but getting better each year. Never feel you must outgrow them.

But it was now time to head to the adult circulation room. THE ROUGH GUIDE TO ICELAND (914.912) was a good travel guide to the country; this was also a 2013 book and included not only where to go and what to see but included information on the history, geology and environment of the country.

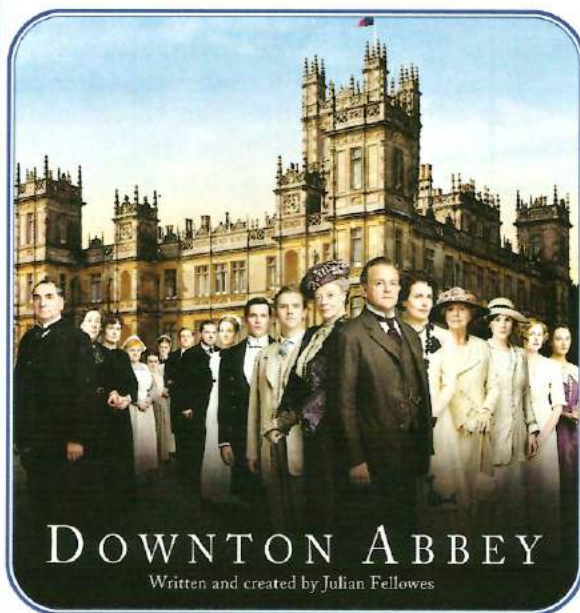
Normally I take paperback books on a trip that I can leave along the way. Iceland even has locations where you can deposit them. This year, however, and knowing I would be gone just a week, I took out two fiction books written by Icelanders. In Iceland, people normally go by their first name and I was impressed that the library filed the books by the author's first name. I found LAST RITUALS by Yrsa Sigurdardottir in the mystery section under "Y". As it said on the cover it was: "An Icelandic Novel of Secret Symbols, Medieval Witchcraft and Modern Murder." Actually I learned much about the early and medieval history of the country. Not only that but I found Icelanders would start talking to me when they saw I had this book in hand.

My second book was also from the mystery section: ARCTIC CHILL by Arnaldur Indridason and found under "A". This book faces the modern problem of multiculturalism in the country as a theme, as most Icelanders still trace family history to original settlers.

Both mysteries were good airplane reads besides being preparation for a fun country that is easily approachable from Boston. Iceland is only about five hours from Logan Airport and either of these mysteries makes the time go quickly.

At the Falmouth Public Library, you can gain information that will increase your enjoyment of any trip be it a day trip or a weekend to longer jaunts across country or overseas. ~Kathleen Murray-Friends Liason to the Trustees

The Downton Abbey Craze



What's it all about? I have no idea but I could make a few guesses. Most of TV is so bad that the TV audience, which largely avoids PBS as only for intellectuals, finally decided, in desperation, to try it. Women in particular, hungry for good drama, probably made up the first rush, and word of mouth took over from there. And let's not leave out the feeling of not being in the know. Nobody likes to be the dummy who hasn't kept up.

As one who has watched Downton Abbey from the beginning, it has been rather amazing to see it take off, but there are always those who decided, for one reason or another, that they would not care for that sort of program. Enter the queen of **The New York Times** Op Ed page for many years, that strongly opinionated, clever, satirical daughter of an Irish immigrant, that no longer young columnist who is currently featured on the side of the page that reflects her political point of view, the left.

Her recent column about Masterpiece Theater made headlines (Maureen Dowd Blasts Masterpiece Theater for its Portrayal of Irish Servants) because it presented a view that was not laudatory. She had purposely not watched it because she was sure it would be a typical English drama which portrayed the lords and ladies doing what she thought they do best, treating their servants badly as they had back when her mother and her "nine big strapping aunts" had come over from Ireland and found work as maids and nannies in the country estates of the super rich.

When Dowd finally did begin watching, imagine her surprise to find that she had been quite wrong. The servants were not treated badly at all. In fact, they were treated warmly by their superiors to the point of confiding in each other about the most intimate aspects of their lives. However, Dowd did pick up on the quandary the Crawley family's Irish chauffeur put them in when one of the daughters married him and then died after delivering his child. The matriarch of the family, the Duchess, had trouble relating to him, but eventually they all came around except Branson, the chauffeur, turned gentleman by marriage, who confided in Lord Grantham that all he ever wanted to be was a farmer. One sympathizes with him sitting at those stiff family dinners in those equally stiff clothes.

I was intrigued by the character called Lady Cora. She is played by the American actress, Elizabeth McGovern, and she is an overly fawning, bleeding heart who is given the job of winning over her far more conservative husband, Lord Grantham. As soon as she appears you better be prepared to step out of the way as she pours her particular brand of oil so liberally on troubled waters. Her head is forever cocked to the side and resting on her shoulder as she looks up ever so sweetly to assess the problem and determine how she can make it all come out right. Her belief that everything can be fixed is so American, and, indeed, Lady Cora is from America. Her husband, Lord



Dame Maggie Smith

What's it all about?



Lady and Lord Grantham

Grantham (played by Hugh Bonneville), appears to be besotted with her. and even at this late time in their marriage, he returns from trips and greets her like only a lover might.

They have two (surviving) daughters, Lady Mary and Lady Edith, between whom there is no love lost. Lady Mary, played by the English actress, Michelle Dockery, is the haughtiest character in **Downton Abbey** barring none. In an attempt to make her more palatable to the audience, Julian Fellowes, who wrote the script, inserted an absurd episode that has Lady Mary cavorting with pigs. perhaps to make her

character less forbidding. Her late husband, Matthew, the actor Dan Stevens, had been killed in an auto accident much to the distress of the feminine audience (he left the cast to act in a play on Broadway and was greeted by screaming American women whenever he came on stage), and presently, in **Downton Abbey**, Lady Mary will be choosing among the many suitors who aspire to take Matthew's place. It may be decided on by how much attention each suitor gets from the feminine TV viewers. Fellowes is not above using every advantage to get more viewers.

There is always a character who is pathetic and Lady Edith, played by the English actress Laura Carmichael, Lady Mary's sister, drew this part. Poor thing. Her beautiful sister can't stand her, and she has had a child out of wedlock with no father in Victorian England. What more could happen to her? We will have to wait until Season 5 to find out. Why didn't Fellowes make Lady Mary pregnant instead? That would have been a real shocker what with all those suitors. It would become a who-dunnit.



Actor Dan Stevens

The story line is far more concerned with all the intrigue going on and the gossiping about it than it is in maintaining a strict class line between the servants and the various Lords and Ladies. Julian Fellowes, himself some kind of aristocrat, could possibly be accused of sentimentalizing the story line to make Americans in particular happy because, as all the world knows, we have trouble with plots that don't end happily. And you may remember that Fellowes is no novice at this game. He also wrote the delightful **Gosford Park** which made both the British and the Americans look hopelessly foolish most of the time.



Creator Julian Fellowes

With Downton Abbey, Fellowes, whatever may have been his chosen theme, has succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. American viewers, both the high and the low, have eaten up every episode. Even Maureen Dowd appears to have become absorbed in it although she is quick to remind herself and her many readers that it is all fantasy. She is right. Fellowes knows this, and the actors do also. Each episode is cunningly crafted to leave

viewers in suspense by almost any means, a murder, a rape, whatever it takes to hold them until the next week. It is not for nothing that **Downton Abby** is regarded as a soap opera. And if that is so, it is equally true that many thousands of people can be heard saying "long live the soap opera." This series is available through the library CLAMS system.

~ Marilyn Sanborn, Editor



Message from the President

Since our last newsletter twenty-two very active Friends have been sorting, pricing, and packing books. This is a never-ending project which we love to do and will do as long as your book donations continue. The holiday sale added \$5,000 to our account; the Book Nook brings in about \$1,000 every month, and since January 1, 2014 we sold forty books on line for a total of \$1500. We do need boxes (computer paper size) for packing the books. Eight Cousins supplies us with many but we are still short so if you have access to boxes this size please drop them off at the library or call and we will pick them up. If you would like a tour of our Spiffy Room stop by on a Monday or Thursday morning and we'll show you around. **Warm thanks to our Friends,** ~ Nancy English

★ ★ Celebrity Sighting ★ ★



Lenny and Stephanie with British actor Ian McNeice

Lenny Miele, a past president of the Friends, and his wife Stephanie, were thrilled to meet Ian McNeice last July. McNeice plays Bert Large on the popular British television show **Doc Martin**. The Miele's were in Cornwall, England for two weeks and visited Port Isaac, the setting for the fictional town of Portwenn where **Doc Martin** is filmed. The Miele's also enjoyed a two-week visit to London to attend Wimbledon tennis matches.



In character as Bert Large

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Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

Joy of Learning
New Courses starting April 7th, 2014
SIGN UP TODAY ~ SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

