

*Friends of the Falmouth Public Library*

# Newsletter

a collection of news, reviews & essays

**Fall 2016**

**Yang Conley, President • Marilyn Sanborn, Editor**



## **ANOTHER BLOCKBUSTER BOOK SALE**



**This year's Summer Book Sale was another great success**, providing valuable support to our beloved town library! The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library sends our heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers, donors, and partners of the event, and to the wonderful library staff that supports us during the sale and throughout the year. It could not be done without all of us together.

**We had an excellent corps of volunteers** for the six-day event, with many new faces among our long-standing friends taking time during the Fourth of July holiday week to support the library. Donations from Eastman's Hardware, Windfall Market, and Roche Bros bolstered our efforts; and we were also delighted to partner with Eight Cousins Bookshop to cross-promote the sale and the Scholastic Book Tour.

**The 2016 sale was our highest grossing to date**, with a ten percent increase in sales over last year. Thanks to the many people who donated books throughout the year, we started the sale with more books and sold more books than ever: an estimated 35,000. Vintage fiction and vintage children's books – new categories as of 2015 – continued to sell well, indicating there is a demand for these books. This year we again had the ability to accept credit cards, and credit-card sales were up by thirty percent.

**In advance of the Town's new ban on plastic bags**, we also eliminated their use during the sale. Instead, we provided donated paper bags, and had a large stock of canvas tote bags with the Library's logo available for sale.

**The Summer Book Sale is a great community event** no matter what the weather, but it was an added bonus to have Mother Nature fully cooperate this year. Now that the summer is coming to a close, plans are already underway for next year's event; and, thanks to all of Falmouth's avid readers, book donations are already arriving to restock the shelves.

**See you next year!**

*~ Christie Couch & Kris O'Conner*



# Joy Of Learning



*Presents Four New Courses*

**Beginning October 5th**

*See inside for details*







## Schedule of Courses for Fall 2016

*The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will offer four new courses which will begin Wednesday, October 5, 2016. The classes are free and open to the public.*



~ Mondays: 2:00-3:00 pm Oct. 17, 24, 31 Nov. 7 ~

### HOW THE VIKINGS MADE EUROPE

In 793 a marauding band of terrifying warriors descended on the defenseless island monastery of Lindisfarne off the coast of Britain, ruthlessly pillaging and murdering. And so the Viking Age began. These Norsemen for the next 300 years ravaged coastal areas all over Europe and along the rivers leading to the Black Sea. They are responsible for the shape of modern England, Ireland, France, Russia, and even influenced the Byzantine empire. Modern Europe owes much of its coalescence to their raiding. Yet today the Vikings own homelands are world leaders in social justice, peacefulness, gender equality and just about every other measure of modern society. We'll look at how all this happened.

**Michael T. Corgan, PhD** - Associate Professor of International Relations, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University; Adjunct Faculty, University of Iceland; Associated Faculty, University of Lapland ~ *Hermann Room*



~ Wednesdays 10:30-Noon Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 ~

### SHORT STORIES OF WILLIAM FAULKNER

- October 5: "Two Soldiers" and "Shall Not Perish" - *(Please read these two stories before coming to the 1st class)*
- October 12: "That Evening Sun" and "Wash"
- October 19: "Shingles For The Lord" and "There Was A Queen"
- October 26: "Barn Burning" and "A Rose For Emily"

**David Webb B.A.** in English, Wesleyan; M.A. & M.Phil. Columbia, concentrating in nineteenth century American Literature ~ *Bay Room*



Wednesdays: 2:00-3:30 pm Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

### THREE ONE ACT OPERAS

- Harsh realism under the Sicilian sun ("Cavalleria Rusticana" by Mascagni)
- Shocking events in the Middle East ("Salome" by Richard Strauss)
- A con man pulls a hilarious trick in Medieval Florence ("Gianni Schicci" by Puccini)

**Louise Adler** - M.S. and PhD in Microbiology & Immunology  
Music has been Dr. Adler's lifelong avocation and passionate pursuit ~ *Bay Room*



Thursdays 10:00-11:15 am October 20, 27 and November 3

### AFGHANISTAN, THE UNTAMEABLE KINGDOM: FROM THE DURRANI EMPIRE TO THE PRESENT

Afghanistan has been called "The Graveyard of Empires." This course will examine the failure of Western policies in that country over a span of more than two centuries, from the First Anglo-Afghan War (of three) in 1839-42, to the Soviet incursion of the 1980's, and the current US-led coalition trying to overcome the Taliban.

**Michael McNaught** holds BA and MA degrees in History from Oxford University (where he specialized in Military History and the Theory of War) and an MA from Columbia. An independent school teacher and administrator for forty-four years, he retired to Falmouth in 2004. He has lectured extensively in the Joy of Learning program at the Falmouth Public Library, the Eldridge Library in Chatham, the Falmouth Historical Society, and Falmouth Academy; and has been a guest lecturer in the Life Long Learning program at Cape Cod Community College. ~ *Hermann Room*



## ✧ Farewell To Leslie ✧

*I remember many years ago sitting in the library director's office of the Falmouth Public Library. My assignment was to interview the new director who had been with us for just three months. I recall thinking how comfortable she seemed sitting there waiting for my questions as if this was just one more interview in a long procession of them. No doubt it was, as it became evident from her answers, that Leslie's experience in libraries dated back to volunteering as a young girl. She went on to hold several library positions as well as working with the Friends.*

*I'm sure she knew about the big job ahead of her as, no doubt, it had been made plain to her when she was hired. Our library was about to begin a complete renovation which would take two years or more and involve moving the present collection to rented quarters while the work was being done. That was not a job for a less than competent director, but we need not have worried. Leslie worked well with the trustees, the builders and of course the town of Falmouth. We are all very happy with the result and we know that Leslie played a big part in making it all happen.*

*The years have gone by and lives change. Leslie's life has changed, and now she has chosen to retire. Good for her. She deserves a rest to assess just where she would like to go from here. We consider ourselves very lucky that we have had such an excellent director and we wish her the very best in retirement. Maybe she will volunteer in a library some day. That is often what librarians do.*

*~ Marilyn Sanborn*

### FY2007 WISH LIST

|                               |          |                                 |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| MUSEUM PASSES.....            | \$ 5,000 |                                 |
| COMPUTERS.....                | \$10,875 |                                 |
| EAST AV MATERIALS.....        | \$ 600   | <b>Total</b><br><b>\$19,525</b> |
| NORTH AV MATERIALS.....       | \$ 600   |                                 |
| CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS.....      | \$ 1,500 |                                 |
| ADULT PROGRAMS.....           | \$ 500   |                                 |
| DIGITAL CAMERA & PRINTER..... | \$ 450   |                                 |

### FY2016 WISH LIST

|                                  |          |                                 |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| MUSEUM PASSES.....               | \$ 5,380 |                                 |
| WIRELESS UPGRADES.....           | \$ 1,756 |                                 |
| DATA BASES (e.g. Lynda.com)..... | \$15,726 | <b>Total</b><br><b>\$32,063</b> |
| MEETING ROOM TECHNOLOGY.....     | \$ 2,404 |                                 |
| CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS.....         | \$ 3,000 |                                 |
| ADULT PROGRAMS.....              | \$ 2,000 |                                 |
| BOOK CLUB SUPPORT.....           | \$ 1,797 |                                 |

## Here's to Dear Old Falmouth:

### Good News for Falmouth Public School Alumni



**Because of the overwhelmingly positive response** to the Library's Digital Archives, which hosts editions of the Falmouth Enterprise and the Town of Falmouth Annual Reports, we are quite excited to announce that our print collection of Falmouth Public School Yearbooks will also be digitized and hosted thanks to the Library for the Commonwealth program, a partnership between the Boston Public Library and Digital Commonwealth. This free program, open to Massachusetts-based libraries, is a great opportunity for the Library to expand our digital services by creating greater access to our local collections.

**The collection dates back to the 1931** edition of the Lawrencian, named after Lawrence High School, and continues to present editions of Falmouth High School's Clipper Compact. The collection also includes several editions of The Broadcaster, the yearbook of the Henry W. Hall School. The collection will undergo the digitization process this fall – just in time for the start of the new school year! So, here's to dear old Falmouth, here's strength to you!

*~ Kim DeWall*

## Thanks to a Volunteer

**With book sales come stories**, some involving the weather and others people. With weather we just cope but I know that I have enjoyed both the attendees and the many hard-working volunteers. It is the volunteers who sort the many donated books, and organize and keep the tables functioning.

**Many volunteers return** year after year to work at the book sale. This year I want to thank one special returning volunteer, Betty Craig. This summer Betty set up and then worked in the classics and biography section. I had happened to mention that I had a chance to go to Ireland this year and would be studying Yeats. She knew I would be looking for information to help plan my trip.

**Even with busy hectic days** Betty found me **SELECTED POEMS AND TWO PLAYS OF WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS** edited by M.L. Rosenthal and **W B. YEATS** by David Ross. They were even small enough to carry on the airplane.

**Thank you Betty** and all the volunteers who worked hard on the sale. The library benefits from all your hard work.

*~ Kathleen Murray*



# The Next Chapter

**Apprehension, anxiety, excitement, fear** and other feelings pop up in my mind when I think of making a new move alone. But when I think about my first day in first grade and every other big new adventure, all those feelings were there back then and will be in future when we no longer have control of our lives. So when a Board member of the Friends moves on we fret like worried parents until we know they are happy and secure in their new surroundings.

**Isabelle joined the FFPL** when she first arrived in Falmouth and a couple of years later started volunteering in the book room. She sorted, priced, then decided that she enjoyed pricing and boxing the cookbooks. As time went by we invited her to join the Board as our very competent Recording Secretary.

**Faire also joined the FFPL** upon arrival in Falmouth and started volunteering a year after Isabelle. She sorted and priced, and then decided to concentrate on Special books. We even bought her a swivel chair to keep her comfortable at the computer. An invitation to join the Board was declined as she could not fit it into her schedule.

**We are so lucky** that both of these special women decided to join the Friends. They will be missed by all but we wish them many more adventures and happy days as they continue on life's journey.

*~ Nancy English*

## Two Friends Move On... Here Are Their Stories

### MY LIFE ~ *Isabelle Mort*

**The decisions we make in life** often bring us to places that surprise us. How did Paul and I ever end up on Cape Cod? We were New Yorkers, we thought we would be there forever.

**Paul and I were both raised near New York City.** When we married we moved to Briarcliff Manor, New York. For more than twenty-five years he commuted to the business he started in Yonkers. When he retired and our five children were in or finished college, we moved to our first retirement home in Croton-on-Hudson. It was perfect, a lovely three-acre place with a thirty-five mile view down the Hudson River...our dream home. We enjoyed twelve wonderful years there, but when an offer was made to buy our place we decided it was time to down-size and move on.



**We rented a condo** in Ossining while we looked for a new house. That summer Paul and I went to Cape Cod for the Falmouth Curling Club's Summer Bonspiel. While there, we took that opportunity to drive around the area. It was charming. We loved it. We felt very much at home. Next thing we knew we had a realtor and a few weeks later we bought a condo in Falmouthport.

**Our second retirement home** was even more delightful than our first. Paul was just a few miles from his favorite pastime, Curling. As for me I met the best friends I could ever hope for. Falmouth offered so many activities for us to enjoy. Our twelve years there were amazingly busy, and fun-filled. We felt so fortunate and we were truly thankful to have found such a warm community.

**Unfortunately our good times faded** in the summer of 2014. Both Paul and I became ill. He died in July, 2015; at the same time I was recuperating from severe nerve damage in my leg. If I thought I could continue living alone in Falmouth I would still be there. However, I realized it was time to move on—to down-size again.

**Life's so strange.** I never in a million years thought I would end up in California. But here I am in Santa Barbara in a retirement community that is warm and welcoming. I have really downsized this time. I didn't bring much with me as I have a small alcove apartment. It is bright and cheerful and Paul's collection of curling pins shine under the glass table tops. It is not big but it is perfect for me.



## MY FALMOUTH LIFE ~ *Faire Goldstein*

In 2003 my husband and I were returning from a visit to his brother in Davisville. While we were stopped at the light at Route 151 and Old Barnstable, we noticed a sign, "Southport Model Homes Open." That sucked us in—talk about impulse buyers—and we immediately became Cape dwellers, even though the Southport house did not work out. We settled in Lochstead, thinking it was just a beautiful house on a street, not realizing it was part of a vibrant, friendly, loving community, and we spent twelve wonderful years there.

We could have stayed in our house all day, but I went to work at the Medical Staff Office of the hospital, Norty became part of the Lochstead Board of Trustees, we both became active in the Democratic Town Committee, and I discovered the joys of the Friends room at the library, immersed in looking up old volumes to see if they were valuable editions. I had been a bookworm all my life, and now I had a purpose in surrounding myself with books, feeling the bindings, smelling the pages, reading a bit here and a bit there—sheer heaven! And to go with the books, a crew of wonderful, interesting, devoted ladies (and a couple guys)—Yang and Nancy, Marlene and the irrepressible Lenny, Marilyn who packed faster than one could imagine, Isabelle who knew the value of all the cookbooks, and later Christie, who brought fresh air and fresh ideas into the room. I cherished my Friends room days, and even Norty discovered the joys of cashiering at the sales, often with a bag on his head to promote the sale of purple Library bags.

Thank you all for twelve of my best years and so many great friends. I shall miss you all, and I plan to teach the City of Miami how a real book sale is run. *Come help me!*



## Holiday Book Sale

★ ★ ★ ★ BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS ★ ★ ★ ★

*Save the Dates* - The Friends Holiday Book Sale is scheduled for:

Saturday, December 3rd ~ 10 to 5

Monday, December 5th ~ 10 to 5

Sunday, December 4th ~ 1:30 to 4:30

Tuesday, December 6th ~ 1:30 to 7:30



# Joy of Learning

CUT OUT HERE

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to  
enroll  
in the  
following  
courses

☐ VIKINGS

☐ THREE OPERAS

☐ FAULKNER

☐ AFGHANISTAN





# BOOK REVIEW

## Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow

The award winning musical, **Alexander Hamilton**, currently on Broadway, is based on Ron Chernow's book, also called **Alexander Hamilton**. The price for a seat in the theater ranges from \$500 to \$3000, so the book may be, until recently, the closest most of us will get to the musical dramatization of Hamilton's Life. It has just been announced that the musical will go on a national tour scheduled to begin in San Francisco in March 2017, and Boston is on the list of cities to be visited later on. If you miss the musical and choose to read the book, you will not lose. Chernow is a superb biographer. His biographies of John D. Rockefeller and The House of Morgan might also have made it to Broadway if someone like Lin Manuel Miranda had happened to read the book. Miranda supplied the music, lyrics and book for the musical as well as playing the role of Hamilton.

Could any other book about one of the founding fathers become a Broadway musical? Remember John and Abigail Adams, who starred in the hugely successful musical **1776**, based on David McCulloch's book **1776**. All of the founding fathers could be the subject of a musical, except maybe Madison and Washington. Neither had much scandal in their lives. Washington was too revered and Madison was brilliant but dull. Jefferson may have been passed by for having too much scandal.

Hamilton had all the requirements. Everyone loves stories of poor boys who make good. Then throw illegitimacy into the pot. Add some scandal and how can you lose? Hamilton had no pedigree similar to other founding fathers, but that did not stop him from ultimately becoming the Secretary of the Treasury in Washington's first administration. The banking system he devised is still with us today, the system without which the squabbling colonies would surely not have attained any kind of union. When Thomas Jefferson became our third president in 1800, he could hardly wait to expose all of the flaws in Hamilton's economic system, but he

was disappointed to find that his Secretary of the Treasury declared Hamilton's work to be perfect. The latter favored a market economy and industrialization, both of which were anathema to the new Republican party. They came around though, didn't they? But not until Jefferson gave up his impractical dream of an agrarian society run by farmers (everyone with their own little Monticello), after seeing how successful capitalism could be.

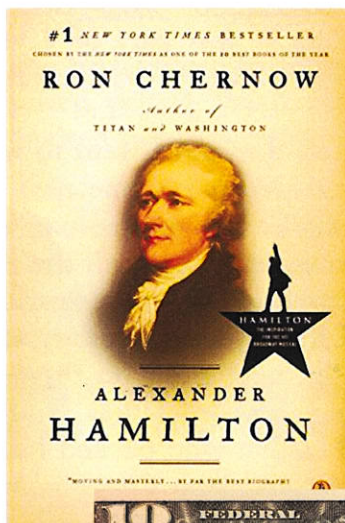
Chernow has no qualms about repeating the nasty little schemes that politicians used to discredit their adversaries and Hamilton received more than his share of them. Jefferson was a pro at hatching up plots to discredit Hamilton, and Madison was happy to contribute, even though he had once been Hamilton's partner in composing the Federalist papers. It is unnerving today

to find that our founding fathers could be guilty of such petty behavior.

One of Alexander's requirements in order to succeed was a wealthy and beautiful wife, and Elizabeth Schuyler fit the bill perfectly. They married and had seven children. Eliza, as she was called,

surpassed all definitions of the perfect wife. When he died, she devoted herself to preserving his legacy, which had been badly scarred by his behavior, particularly a loveless affair which included blackmail and his failure to keep his finances in order. When he left his position as Secretary of the Treasury, he built a house in upper Manhattan, which he called The Grange, and he knowingly went on a spending spree to make it

the home he always dreamed of. There was evidently no thought that his wife could end up with his debts if he should die. Jefferson had no wife, so he had to pay his own very large debts by selling his priceless





# BOOK REVIEW

## Alexander Hamilton (continued from Page 6)

library to the government and selling some of his slaves without a thought of keeping families together. Conscious of the pain it caused black families, Washington was very careful not to do this.

Many pages are devoted to the duel with Aaron Burr and the time leading up to it, more than I cared about reading. Aaron Burr, who was at the time Jefferson's Vice President and long an enemy of Hamilton's, challenged the latter who accepted, not thinking anything would come of it. He also decided

not to be aggressive: in retrospect, a serious error on his part. Hamilton had not planned to kill Burr, so his first shot was wild, but Burr's was not. Hamilton was mortally wounded and lived only two days. He was

41. His wife, Eliza, lived 50 years beyond her husband and died at 97.

And what about Eliza? We are told she came from a wealthy family, she loved her husband and was willing to forgive his transgressions, but now she was a widow with seven children and debts to pay. Chernow hasn't told us much about her and perhaps that is why he adds the epilogue to his book and calls it "Eliza." We certainly heard enough about her beautiful sister Angelica and how dear they were to each other. We also heard about how much Angelica and Hamilton loved each other, their close "friendship" as it was called. The musical has had a ball with this

relationship. The role of Angelica appears to be the lead and there is much more about her than Eliza.



I guess that figures. There has to be something spicy and Eliza was not exciting.

What did she do during those 50 years after Hamilton's death? She lived pretty much for her Hamilton. She aided greatly in collecting information about the things he accomplished in his lifetime in order to make

sure his legacy was all it should be. She had to weather the grief not only of her husband's death, but of her mother, her eldest son, and a daughter who had been ill for a long time, but she still had the support of her beloved sister Angelica, until she died at 57.

Continuing to be an active person, Eliza became involved in helping orphans, a cause dear to her heart, and served as the directress of an orphanage which had been erected in Manhattan. Ultimately, she went to live with her widowed daughter near the White House and was at home to greet every one from the President on down. She lived a full life, confident that she would one day be united with her Hamilton. She had become a piece of history.

## Message from the President

Now that we are recovering from the busy days of summer and many tourists have left, it is time to look forward to the events of fall and winter. Joy of Learning starts in October, and this year we are extending a special invitation to homeschoolers of high school age to attend. We are all excited about the return of Sunday Library hours in November. Soon after that the Holidays will be upon us, and this year the Holiday Book Sale will be December third to the sixth.

Our Library Director, Leslie Morrissey, has announced her retirement. Leslie came on board in time to oversee the renovation and expansion of the Library. She will be missed and we wish her the very best in the next stage of her life.

~ Yang Conley

**The FFPL  
is looking for a new  
Treasurer.**

**Please call  
508-540-1825  
if you are interested.**



# GARDENING

## *Kudos to the beautiful Anabelle and the gorgeous Oak Leaf Hydrangeas.*

All gardeners, families of gardeners and friends of gardeners knew that something was going on with the hydrangeas this spring. They were green and healthy looking, but as time went on they were still green and that's all, not a sign of a blossom. I thought they were perhaps just late this year for some reason, so I waited. Then there were one, maybe two blooms on a plant and I sighed with relief. They would catch up. I waited. I examined them every day. No more blooms.



Then I heard that something had happened to the hydrangeas during the winter. We had had a few days of unseasonably warm weather so the buds came out. Then they froze and died. A few managed to escape but not many.

A summer on the Cape with no hydrangeas blooming? I was dejected. I had maybe thirty plants scattered around my yard. And then one day I noticed something happening with Anabelle, the lovely white hydrangea. It looked very much like it was about to bloom. I had two large clumps and sure enough they bloomed as always. And not long after, the spectacular oak leaf hydrangea began to show signs that it too would bloom.

How did they escape the disaster that had killed all the others? Did they have some kind of magic protection? Whatever the reason, I couldn't have been happier. Here it is September and they are still loaded with blossoms. Anabelle has turned a limeish green and the oak leaf's blossoms are now a pink blush.

I picked a lot and I am drying them. I had tried before without success, but this time it looks like it is going to work. Perhaps I will be successful to make up for all those hydrangeas that never bloomed.

That's the way gardening is. You win some and you lose some, and you are grateful for whatever you get.

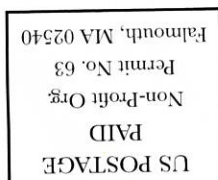
~ Marilyn Sanborn



Joy of Learning  
New Courses starting October 5, 2016  
SIGN UP TODAY



Change Service Requested



*Friends of the Falmouth Public Library*

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