HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

Day 1  Saturday  December 4  10am - 5pm
Day 2  Sunday  December 5  1pm - 5 pm
Day 3  Monday  December 6  10am - 5pm

Because Covid restrictions were not clear this summer, the Friends annual book sale was not held during the first week in July. Residents and visitors alike were disappointed that they could not purchase books over the Fourth of July holiday, an activity that is a highlight of the year for many people. However, with the decline of Covid cases in July, it was decided by the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library to proceed with having a book sale during the last week in August. Under the leadership of Mary Tamucci, the Friends president, along with board members Lenny Miele, Deborah Winograd, Rob Gillis, Edwina Yee, and Kevin O’Brien, the book sale was held from August 15 to August 22. More than 40,000 books were transported to the library lawn on Main Street where they were categorized by subject and sold under six tents.

The largest tent anchoring the book sale included non-fiction books and all categories of literature. There was also a history/biography tent, a specials tent with nautical, music, antiques, and Americana books, a children’s tent, a cooking and how-to tent, and a media tent with CDs, DVDs, and picture puzzles.

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library want to thank all the loyal volunteers who worked for five days arranging, sorting, and packing books, serving as cashiers, and rolling and unrolling protective tarps each morning and afternoon. It was a productive and gratifying team effort that helped to raise $58,000 for our three libraries.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy summer. It was wonderful to be able to conduct our summer book sale. We had a great turnout with shoppers who seemed very happy to be once again browsing the book tables. Many thanks to our super team of volunteers without whom none of it would be possible. The show of support from the Library and the Board of Library Trustees was outstanding and very much appreciated. Thank you to the fabulous library staff for treating us to a wonderful array of refreshments throughout the sale. I want to recognize the teen helpers, Town of Falmouth Building Department, the DPW, Dig Safe, Bay Side Tents, Colonial Movers, and Discovery Books for being very prompt with service and support despite short notice in some cases. Special thanks to Cavossa Disposal for recycling all the cardboard boxes we emptied.

I’m happy to report that our Book Nook is back in full swing and open for business in the Katharine Lee Bates lobby of the main branch. We have two satellite sale cases. One is located at the East Falmouth branch and the other is at the Bus Station. Please drop by and browse.

Moving into autumn we’re happy to welcome several new members and book room volunteers. We’re again open to accept your book donations by appointment. Due to the large volume, we’re asking that people call before dropping off donations to make sure there will be enough space in the book room and someone to accept your books. We still need help moving packed books to storage. If you’re interested in sharing your time and talent, please email friends@falmouthpubliclibrary.org. It would be great to have three or four people with a truck or SUV who would be willing to do this task on a rotating basis.

We’re happy to announce that The Friends Holiday Book Sale will be held during Falmouth Holidays by the Sea weekend. The sale will be open Saturday, Sunday and Monday December 4 -6 in the Herman Room in the lower level of the library. As always, all books offered will be in like-new condition and suitable for gifting. Hours will be 10 – 5 on Saturday and Monday, and 1 – 5 on Sunday.

Wishing everyone a safe autumn and winter and a happy holiday season.

Mary Tamucci, President
In the words of Bob Dylan, the times they are a changin’ at the Falmouth Public Library. We have been fortunate to enjoy fairly stable staffing over the years but we are about to lose two long-term Department Heads. Children’s Librarian, Laura Ford has crossed the Bourne Bridge for the last time and will now be delighting the children of Plymouth with her unique story telling abilities. Laura first came to Falmouth in 2007 as a Reference Librarian. It wasn’t long before we discovered her talents were working with the little ones and getting children of all ages excited about books. Miss Laura has managed the Youth Services Department ever since. She will be missed by young and old alike.

Head of Reference and Adult Services, Jill Erickson has worked at the Falmouth Public Library since 1991. She came to Falmouth from the Boston Athenaeum. The nineties were a pivotal time for libraries and Jill helped to shepherd us along into the digital age. A month after her arrival the Falmouth Public Library went online with the CLAMS catalog. When asked what brought her the most satisfaction over her time at here Jill said,” There are so many things that I am proud of having done during my 30-years of working at the Falmouth Public Library, but there are two that particularly stand out. The deep pleasure of helping patrons find the answers to their questions, and the joy of being able to talk about books monthly on our local NPR station, CAI.” Jill’s retirement is well earned, but we will miss her both here in the Library and on The Point with Mindy Todd.

Librarians will be hired to fill these important roles but Laura and Jill have left their mark and will forever be a part of the history of the Falmouth Public Library.

---

Linda Collins, Director

Jill Erickson

Laura Ford

---

REPORT FROM THE FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORT FUND

Finally, after well over a year we were able to meet in-person for our September board meeting and everyone agreed was wonderful to do and see one another. While a relatively quiet period, we were able over the Summer to provide funding for the library to purchase canopies for the East Falmouth Library to hold their youth programs outside in the Children’s Reading Garden. At our recent board meeting our guest speaker was Jill Irving Bishop, Falmouth Senior Center Director. Jill provided an overview on the new Senior Center, and board members brainstormed on how we might work with the Center on special programs. As we get back to meeting and holding events in-person, we look forward to funding new projects, and as always, we look forward to working with The Friends of Falmouth Public Library on new funding opportunities. Thank you and wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Bob Ripley, Chair

---

BOOK REVIEWS

Undaunted by John O. Brennan

Undaunted is more of an autobiography than other similar books. Previously, I have not read the details on the selection, training, and development of CIA analysts and agents. The author went from a son of immigrants to the highest levels in the US government as Director of the CIA and advisor to the President. He addresses many topical issues of concern both in the private and government sectors and appears to have a strong moral bearing based on his upbringing as he strives for personal integrity for himself and his country. He is a firm supporter of the men and women in the CIA who silently labor on behalf of the citizens of the US.

As a former Director of the CIA, he addresses many issues in Undaunted from his perspective on various crucial topics such as the intervention in Iraq, the Benghazi tragedy, enhanced interrogation techniques, the Mueller investigation, Bin Laden’s death, and Russian interference in the US elections. The background discussions of each issue were very enlightening from my perspective. The book is a history lesson with insights into the obscure area of national security with implications for our country’s relationship to the rest of the world at a time of a chaotic political environment in this country. --Paul Dreyer

Flee, Fly, Flown by Janet Hepburn

Lillian and Audrey, residents of a memory care facility, decide they need a vacation. While they can get confused, and often do, they are sharp enough to plan their “escape” from the facility, retrieve a car that once belonged to Audrey, and begin their journey. While this plot could have easily fallen into a slapstick or lighthearted tale, it is so much more.

Hepburn has a keen understanding of the aging process and what it must be like to not be able to count on your grasp of a situation. The two engage a young homeless man to drive them west and Lillian alternately sees him as her son, her husband, or their new friend, caretaker, and driver. Knowing she cannot rely on her memory she writes in her notebook only to later question, who has been writing in my book?

The one very real question this book addresses is that of quality of life. In the facility Lillian and Audrey are safe, but they are told what and when to eat, when to sleep, and when to play bingo. Can we provide people with the freedom to live their lives as they age and require care and protection? Perhaps a road trip with a homeless musician is out of the question, but he provides Lillian and Audrey with the one thing they do not seem to receive from the staff at the facility or even from their families and that is respect and appreciation for the unique individuals they are and the lives they have lived.

Flee, Fly, Flown is a quick read that leaves you with so much more to think about.

--Linda Collins
Seems like it was just yesterday that the Library kicked off Postcards from Falmouth, a Library Services Technology Act grant that enabled the Library to usher in new approaches to how staff develops, manages, and shares the Library’s local history resources. The primary goal of the effort is not only to create an oral history based upon the Library’s extensive collection of historical postcards of Falmouth, but to also build a digital archive to preserve and provide access to such resources for generations to come. Although the pandemic delayed the undertaking, the staff is delighted to resume work on the project. Anna Lee, the grant assistant, is busy scheduling oral history recordings in the FCTV studio again, and Barbara Kanelllopoulis and Troy Clarkson continue to interview an array of local oral historians. A work in progress between the staff at FCTV and FPL, after the oral histories go through a post-production process, they are uploaded to the Library’s digital archives, along with the transcripts and other pertinent resources. To date, there are eight, and they are available to view through the Library’s website, just click on the blue Digital Collections@Falmouth Public Library logo. Also included in the first round of oral histories are two noted historians with deep ties to Falmouth, who regretfully passed not long after the recordings:

Richard Kendall, a dedicated public servant who served in the MA House of Representatives and as the Commonwealth’s Commissioner of Environmental Management, and who remained an active part in town government, shares recollections of baseball games in Falmouth Heights, from informal youth games to Cape League contenders.

Donald Fish, a direct descendant of the Hatch Family, shares several memories of growing up in Falmouth, from the Hurricane of 1938 to the town’s celebration of the end of WWII. In fact, Mr. Fish is interviewed by his niece, Carrie Aiken, a Library staff member, and filmed by her son, Cameron.

Soon to be released oral histories include Rob Blomberg on the Woods Hole Library, Linda Collins on Falmouth Public Library, Reverend Nell Fields on the Waquoit Congregational Church, Charles McCaffrey on the West Falmouth Library, Mark Pearson on the College Light Opera Company (formerly the West Falmouth Inn), Joel Peterson on the Dome Restaurant, and Mark Schmidt on the Falmouth Historical Society.

The Library invites the public to share their memories of Falmouth inspired by the postcards, too, by commenting in our digital archives, on the Library blog, or on the Library’s social media. Contact us for more information, or if you know a potential oral historian: postcards@falmouthpubliclibrary.org or (508) 457-2555 (ext 2951).

Kim DeWall, Head of Technical Services