



# Off the Shelf

## Friends Donate Over \$28,000 to Library

By Sally McCoubrey

### Annual Treasurer's Report

Now that the Friends' 2004-05 year is over, it is exciting to review the more than \$28,000 in contributions the organization has made to the library. This past year the Friends Steering Committee focused on the needs of children. Be sure to visit the Children's Room to enjoy the beautiful salt water aquarium which the Friends provided with a donation of \$5,260. The Friends also donated an additional \$4,700 for other improvements to the Children's Room and has committed another \$5,400 next year (Read about many of these exciting gifts on page 6 of this newsletter).

Gifts to the library also included

general funding of \$16,000 for the Museum Pass and Speed Read programs, adult summer programs, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Miniature Golf at Natick Days, and the welcome packets for new library patrons.

The Friends would not be able to make these gifts without the continued generous support of its members. Membership donations this year totaled \$16,538. Net proceeds from book sales, including the online sales, were more than \$21,800. Product sales raised another \$641. The Friends also raised more than \$450 by participating in Natick Days. In all, the Friends collected revenues in excess of \$39,000.

*Continued on page 3*

### Treasures in Your Attic: Old and Rare Books

By Fran Weisse

Ken Gloss, well-known proprietor of Boston's Brattle Book Shop, will discuss "Treasures in Your Attic: Old and Rare Books" on Tuesday, September 27, at 7 p.m. at the Morse Institute Library. Gloss, familiar to many due to his appearances on PBS' *Antiques Roadshow*, is the special guest of the Friends. He will speak in general about old and rare books, answering audience questions, and appraise whatever books audience

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### Friends' Book & Music Sale

Hardcover **\$1**  
Paperback **50¢**

Great bargains! Huge inventory! Plus videos, puzzles, CDs, records, gifts!

**Saturday, October 1**  
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 2**  
12 Noon – 3 p.m.

Morse Institute Library

*See page 7 for 50¢ coupon.*

## Off the Shelf

A newsletter published three times a year by the

### Friends of the Morse Institute Library

14 East Central St.  
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which is solely responsible for its content.

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## President's Column

By Mary McKenna

### Annual Report: September 2004 – August 2005

Once again, as our financial year wraps up, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the activities of the Friends of the Morse Institute Library during the past year. It has been another busy and productive year for the Friends.

Through our annual contribution of \$16,000 for library programs and services, we help fund many library offerings. Program support includes the Museum Pass program, providing access to local museums for free or reduced admission fees, with new destinations always being added including the Danforth Museum in Framingham and Davis Farm in Sterling this year. The Friends continues funding bookmobile operations to keep it on the street and in your neighborhood during the summer months. The Speed Reads and Speed Views program is still immensely popular with library patrons and one of the most frequently used services in our library. The Adult Summer Programs series was funded in part with Friends contributions and frequently staffed with Friends volunteers, as were several of this year's Children's Programs.

The Friends had a general mandate this year: help where possible in the Children's Room, shoring up areas needing improvement as outlined in the library's Strategic Plan for 2001-2005. We contributed additional funds to purchase new materials including a train set, a mobile puppet theatre, many DVDs and audio books, and special collection materials. The new Books for Babies program provides a gift bag for newborns including a board book, a "Read to Me" bib, library and program information, and suggested books for babies. Larger purchases include the salt water

aquarium that has just completed the settling in phase. New creatures will be added to the aquarium now that the water has become more hospitable to fragile sea creatures. Also, you will notice many wooden sculptures contributed by the Friends have been added to in the Children's Room this summer. Finally, we have funded new chairs for more seating around the Children's Room providing more opportunities for parents and kids to read together.

The Friends have also earmarked funding this year to purchase furniture for outside the Meeting Hall. People waiting for the Hall to open or for a meeting to wrap up will no longer will need to stand by the doors or keep watch from the Children's Room!

Each spring the Friends hosts the library Staff Appreciation Luncheon. This year's luncheon was held on April 7 with a birthday party theme. More than 40 library staff members were served a delicious lunch topped with, of course, birthday cake, party favors, and gifts. On May 1, the Friends hosted the annual Ice Cream Social complimenting the Sunday afternoon jazz at the library program. And in September we've again organized and staffed the Miniature Golf at Natick Days to provide entertainment and raise funds for the library.

The long-awaited self-checkout station is not yet ready for prime time in any library on the Minuteman system. The Friends has reserved \$22,000 for the purchase of this station and a lifetime license for our library once the appropriate technology is available.

Book sales offering Saturday and Sunday shopping three times a year continue to be a great fund-raiser for us,

*Continued on page 4*

# Friendship, Friendship, Just a Perfect Blendship

By Fran Weisse

The Friends of the Morse Institute Library have that perfect “blendship” that Cole Porter was referring to! Whether you support the Friends as a volunteer or a donor, you will meet and mix with like-minded individuals who are discovering lots of ways to help our library.

Friends are out in front and behind the scenes for every book sale. Sorters turn bags and boxes of donated books into boxes organized by genre (fiction, biography, sci-fi, etc.) ready to set out at the next sale. We would love to have your help—an hour or two a week during library business hours. To help out, please contact Terri Evans (bevanst@earthlink.net; 508-655-674, evenings).

Book sale volunteers help with set-up the Thursday before each sale, during the sale on Saturday and Sunday, and then help pack up when the sale is over. The old adage about “many hands making light work” is key to our successful sales. Interested in helping out? Please contact Harlee Strauss (h.strauss@rcn.com; 508-651-9746).

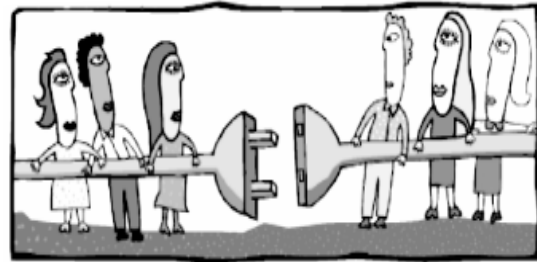
Each time the Friends’ newsletter, “Off the Shelf,” is published there are opportunities to help with the mailing process. Volunteers label and seal each newsletter, tucking in membership renewals. Four or five volunteers finish the job in two to three hours. To help, please contact Kristin Djourup (Djourupkristin@aol.com; 508-650-9137).

Hospitality volunteers are an integral part of

the varied programs that the Friends support, ranging from our annual library Staff Appreciation Luncheon to the Ice Cream Social and other summer programs. You can certainly make new Friends scooping ice cream or decorating the Community Room! Interested in helping out? Please contact Mary McKenna (marymckenna@rcn.com; 508-545-1032).

We are also looking for several on-call volunteers to help prepare the Friends’ welcome packets given to all new library patrons. The time commitment is very flexible. Please contact Fay Phillips (508-650-5808).

To learn more about Friends’ volunteer opportunities, go to our web site ([www.morsefriends.org](http://www.morsefriends.org)) and keep reading this newsletter! □



*Volunteers make the connection.*

## Friends Donate Over \$28,000 to Library

*Continued from page 1*

Thanks to the generosity of many volunteers, operating expenses for the Friends are low. Major expenditures were for the printing and mailing of three newsletters and the membership development campaign, which together totaled \$2,303. A year ago the Friends launched its new web site ([www.morsefriends.org](http://www.morsefriends.org)). The design of the site cost \$840. Other operating expenses included association dues and general supplies, which totaled less than \$450.

Looking ahead, the Friends has committed

funds to several projects requested by the library staff. These include the self-checkout system, which is still in development, the One-Book-One-Town project scheduled for 2006, and the additional enhancements to the Children’s Room mentioned above. A total of \$30,400 has been set aside for these projects.

If you would like more information about the Friends’ finances, please feel free to contact me (s.mccoubrey@comcast.net; 508-655-5017). □

## Production Editor Sought



If you have good computer layout skills and experience with publishing software, we're looking for you. "Off the Shelf," the Friends' newsletter, which is published three times a year, is looking for someone who can take edited articles, create a layout for the newsletter, incorporate graphics and filler as needed, and work with the printer in the production of the newsletter.

Please call Mary McKenna (marymckenna@rcn.com; 508-545-1032) or Fay Phillips (508-650-5808) for further details. We hope to have a new production editor for our next issue which goes to press in January, 2006. Here's your chance to express your creativity and support the Friends!

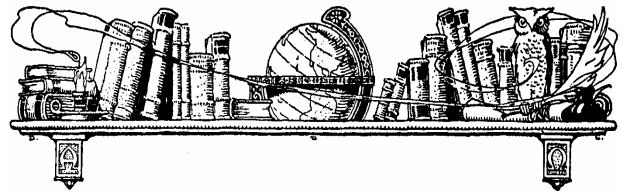
## Treasures in Your Attic...

*Continued from page 1*

members bring with them.

Gloss and his family own the Brattle Book Shop, 9 West Street, Boston, one of the oldest and largest antiquarian bookshops in the United States. His father, George, became an "institution" in Boston during his years at the helm from 1949 until his death in 1985. The Brattle Bookshop is easily recognizable by the book carts lined up outside its doors, offering books for \$1 to \$5 each. Inside are more than 250,000 items, including used books, out-of-print and first-edition books, maps, postcards and ephemera.

If you would like to know more about the value and scarcity of books, ranging from your favorite childhood picture books to an elderly relative's library, join us on September 27 to learn more about the treasures in your attic. □



## President's Column *Continued from page 2*

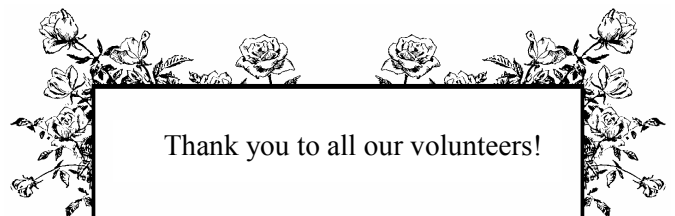
with 2004-05 breaking all previous sales records. Our book donations now require at least three book sales a year to keep pace with the volume. In February, we started online book sales as well, contracting with an online bookseller business to routinely cull our donations for books that should sell for more than \$6 online. To date the program has been a tremendous success, assisting us to better monetize and quickly move our ever increasing book donations.

The top issues the Friends faces in the next year are increasing our membership numbers and, most importantly, the volunteer pool. Volunteers sort book donations, and assist at book sales and the many programs sponsored by the Friends. We purchased two sign stands for the first and lower levels of the library to provide information and applications to attract new Friends. We will also conduct a town-wide mailing in the spring of 2006 as the library will no longer conduct a spring town-wide mailing for their own fund-raising. If you have additional creative ideas to increase our

membership and our active volunteer pool, we would love to hear from you.

A very big thank you to Friends steering committee members and to all the volunteers who made this such a successful year. Thanks also for your generous membership donations that enable the Friends to support the library in so many ways.

If you have any ideas for new programs, services, or events at the Morse Institute Library, please send along your suggestions or attend a Friends meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the library. The Friends Steering Committee is always grateful for new ideas, volunteers, and members to assist the us in support of this great community resource (marymckenna@rcn.com; 508-545-1032). □



## Friends' Book & Music Sale

By Harlee Strauss

Please join the Friends for our annual fall book and music sale on Saturday, October 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 2, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Once again, we have many thousands of books to choose from. And remember, our books are priced spectacularly: 50¢ for paperbacks and \$1 for hardcovers. All children's books are 50¢.

Come to the book and music sale to find more mysteries, romance, or fiction by your favorite authors, or take the opportunity to explore new authors. Browse our collection of business, history, health, cooking, travel, humor, animals/nature, computers, classics, and more. We also sell puzzles, records, tapes, CDs, and special Friends fund-raiser items such as aprons, tote bags, note cards, and pencils.

Please contact book sale co-chair Harlee Strauss (h.strauss@rcn.com; 508-651-8784) if you would like to volunteer to help at this or future book sales. □

## Library Meeting Hall Named in Honor of Trustee Marshall Lebowitz

By Paula Polk

Please join us on Sunday, September 25, at 3 p.m. for a reception to honor Trustee President Marshall Lebowitz, who has been a library trustee since 1989. There will be presentations from library trustees and representatives of the Town of Natick to thank Marshall for his many years of service to the library.



The reception will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Meeting Hall and the event is open to the public. Please call Charlie Ching (508-647-6525) if you plan to attend. □

## Visit [MyNatick.org](http://MyNatick.org) for Natick's New Resource Directory and Community Calendar

By Paula Polk

Need help finding information about child care programs in Natick? Assistance with the new drug benefits programs? Natick's fall recreation opportunities? Check out **MyNatick.org** and click on "Directory" to use the new online Resource Directory sponsored by the Natick Community Coalition and the Morse Institute Library. The new directory debuts in mid-September and offers listings on over two hundred agencies providing services and programs on health, nutrition, education, parenting, child care, elder services, recreation opportunities, substance abuse programs, and counseling.

The Natick Community Calendar at

MyNatick.org will also debut in September and the number of events listed will expand rapidly throughout the fall as more agencies participate in this valuable resource funded by Verizon. When you access the calendar, you can scan the month's events or click on the event you are interested in to access more information about the event and the sponsoring organization. Training sessions on using the new Resource Directory, Community Calendar, and news postings will be offered on a monthly basis at the Morse Institute Library. For additional information, contact library director Paula Polk (ppolk@minlib.net; 508-647-6523). □

## Photographer? We Need You!

We are looking for a volunteer to take digital photographs at Friends events throughout the year. Friends-sponsored events include our book sales, the annual library Staff Appreciation Luncheon, the Ice Cream Social, Natick Days miniature golf, summer programs, etc. If you could attend just a few of these events and provide us with digital images, that would help a great deal! Please contact Mary Mckenna (marymckenna@rcn.com; 508-545-1032). □

## What's New in the Children's Room?

By Donna LaRoche

During your next visit to the Morse Institute Library, be sure to stop by the Children's Room. Artists Michael and Ann DiPierro of *Parts of a Larger World* have created customized, highly detailed, three-dimensional window sculptures and end panels sure to enchant library patrons of all ages. The magnificent designs tell a story within a story and feature a mischievous cat, a wonderful tree house, a young and old Jack and the Giant, and fanciful nautical themes complementing the new Children's Room aquarium donated by the Friends.

Dale Smith, Children's Room Librarian, is delighted with this new gift from the Friends. The sculptures "add another dimension to the Children's Room. Children from birth to sixth grade as well as adults will all smile when they view this whimsical art." □

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## Friends Annual Meeting Held September 15

The Friends held their Annual Meeting on September 15, 2005 at the Library. Members of the steering committee summarized Friends' activities over the past year, reported on budget and membership numbers, and welcomed new steering committee members. □

## Summer Adult Programs a Great Success

By Pat Thomas

Once again, the Morse Institute Library presented a calendar of summer adult programs offering a kaleidoscope of culture and fun.

On July 1, red, white, and blue was everywhere as Harriet Buckingham provided piano music for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hootenanny. It was an afternoon of spirited, patriotic sing-a-long filled with stars, stripes, and Old Glory!

"Adventures in Lifelong Learning" took place on July 3. Elderhostel ambassador, Rochelle Kruger, enlightened her audience about the adventures and educational opportunities available to Elderhostel participants.

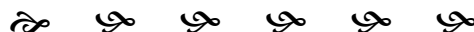
July 17 brought the talented and captivating David Polansky and Friends to the library. The top notch jazz musicians presented Dixieland Jazz at its best. So much fun!

On July 20, local historian, Virginia Lyster, used slides and photographs to take her audience on a tour of Natick, past and present. Her presentation focused on people and places that represented milestones in Natick history. Many of us were surprised to hear "what we were, and when!"

Nature photography with Bill Peters was the topic for the July 27 program. Mr. Peters discussed his passion for using manual photography equipment in photographing nature. He explained his philosophy and thought processes in composing his stunning works, exhibited on the Meeting Hall's walls.

The final event of the Adult Summer Series took place on August 3. Dr. Philip P. Sullivan, M.D., talked about his new book, *The World According to Homo Sapiens*. The book explores our human ethical sense and tries to explain why we experience the world as we do. There was lots of food for thought in Dr. Sullivan's talk.

Each of these stimulating programs was funded by you, the Friends of the Morse Institute Library. All programs were free and open to the public. Our community appreciates your support. □



START YOUR SAVINGS NOW! CLIP THIS COUPON!



**Visit the Friends' web site:**

**www.morsefriends.org**

**Find out about Friends-sponsored events and volunteer opportunities.**



**This coupon is worth  
50¢ off  
your purchase  
at the Friends' Book & Music Sale**



of the Morse Institute Library

Please print:

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

One coupon per customer.  
Coupon expires 10/02/2005

**Volunteers needed for Friends' Book & Music Sale:**

- Set up on Thursday, September 29, anytime between 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Help anytime during the sale on Saturday, October 1 (9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or Sunday, October 2 (12 noon – 3 p.m.)
- Packing up on Sunday, October 2, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Please contact : Harlee - h.strauss@rcn.com; 508-651-8784



**Yes, I want to join *The Friends of the Morse Institute Library.***

Mail this form and your tax-deductible donation to:

*The Friends of the Morse Institute Library*  
14 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5 – Senior or Student      Or if you can afford a larger membership  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10 – Individual                      contribution:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 – Family                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100+

*You may be able to double your gift. Ask your company about its matching gift policy.*

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ *Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Morse Institute Library.*

I would like to help with the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Occasional book sorting

\_\_\_\_\_ Book Sales

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ Program & Hospitality

\_\_\_\_\_ Displays

\_\_\_\_\_ Steering Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ As Needed

**When can you help?**

Weekday    \_\_\_ Day \_\_\_ Eve

Weekend    \_\_\_ Day \_\_\_ Eve

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**Morse Institute Library**  
14 East Central Street  
Natick, MA 01760  
[www.morseinstitute.org](http://www.morseinstitute.org)



Circulation Department  
508-647-6520



Reference Department  
508-647-6521



Children's Department  
508-647-6522

## **Morse Institute Library Hours**

Monday–Thursday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**NOTE:** The library will be closed on Friday, October 28 for staff training.

The library will be closed on the following holidays:

Monday, October 10 – Columbus Day  
Friday, November 11 – Veteran's Day  
Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

For information on library hours, please call 508-647-6520 or check the library web site at [www.morseinstitute.org](http://www.morseinstitute.org)