



Off the Shelf

Friends Working Together: Bake Sales and Book Sales

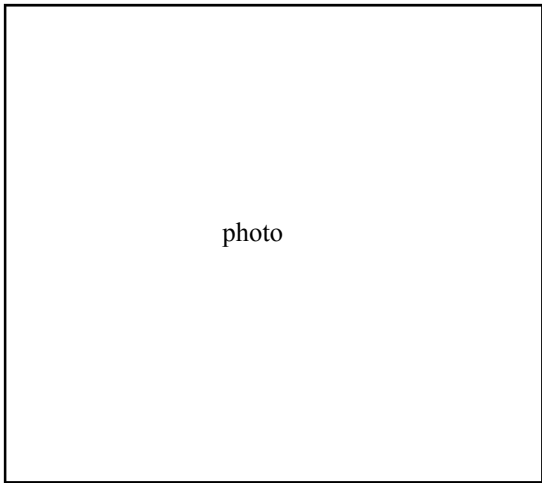
By Donna LaRoche

Please be sure to bring along your appetite to the June book sale! Twenty to thirty members of the Friends of the Natick Senior Center will bake a variety of delicious homemade goodies and sell them on Saturday morning, June 12, during the first day of the two-day book sale. Lucille Belmore, president of the

Natick Seniors, reports, “We certainly appreciate the support the patrons give us. We do very well at the sale and it’s a major fundraiser for our Senior Center. Funds from the upcoming bake sale will be used to repair the pool table, underwrite costs for needy seniors who would like to participate in the Center activities, and sponsor a town-wide mailing announcing and promoting a new nutritional program for seniors.”

Continued on page 5

Mila’s Birthday Wish — Her Own Library Card



photo

“Mila wanted two things on her fifth birthday: to make her own bear at Build-a-Bear, and her own library card. On her own, Mila learned how to spell our last name and squeezed it all onto the space on the card. I couldn’t be prouder that that is what she asked for.”


— Joel and Mari Barrera
(Mila’s parents)

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Summer treats await you.

Books
Music
Videos
Gifts



FRIENDS' BOOK & MUSIC SALE

2 days to shop:
Saturday, June 12 - 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 13 - 12 noon - 3 p.m.

Morse Institute Library
Lower Level

Clip & save coupon on page 7

Off the Shelf

A newsletter published three times a year by the

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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

For the past six months the Friends Steering Committee has been thinking of new and innovative ways to serve Morse Institute Library. We are working on providing a series of programs for library patrons that serve different age groups. To date, we have purchased several new items for the Children's Library (see page 3) and sponsored the Children's Read-a-thon in November. We will be funding *Generations Online* software to be introduced in the library this summer. *Generations Online* is a large print computer tutorial to train seniors on email and Internet use, including providing free email addresses for any senior who wants an email address. We are currently investigating the introduction of a new program to support parents of infants, and we continue to work on discovering innovative programs and services for adolescents.

The spring has been a time for thanks, specifically thanking the groups that make all the library programs and services possible: the library staff and

volunteers. The annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon took place in early April as did the Ice Cream Social (see page 6). The staff and volunteers combine to make Morse Institute Library a highly valued and heavily trafficked community resource.

The Friends Steering Committee is also busy redesigning our web site. Our goal is to provide an enhanced Friends web site for information about membership, book sales, museum passes, current projects, etc. We look forward to providing our membership with new and improved access to all Friends activities.

If you have any ideas for new programs, services, or events at the library, please send along your suggestions or attend a Friends monthly 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 in support of this great community resource. (marymckenna@rcn.com; 508-545-1032) □

Explore Other Worlds @ Your Library Adult Summer Series: June 30 — August 11, 2004 By Brenda Castino

The fun begins on Wednesday, June 30, with our 4th annual Patriotic Hootenany at 3 p.m. Come for an old-fashioned sing-along of patriotic and familiar tunes. Dress for the occasion wearing your red, white, and blue and enjoy an afternoon filled with Stars and Stripes and Old Glory.

Each succeeding Wednesday through August 11, there will be a



special program for our adult library users, including a book talk, a musical on the big screen, a cooking demonstration, music and more. Supported by the Friends of the Morse Institute Library, this series offers a wide spectrum of activities to entertain and educate. Look for the schedule of summer events the next time you are in the library or check out the library web site (www.morseinstitute.org). □

Legislative Action Requested to Restore Library Funding

By Mary McKenna

We again need some assistance from our Friends membership and it should only take a few minutes of your time.

Thank you very much for your great show of support for libraries as reflected in the House version of the budget that came out last week. The Library Technology and Resource Sharing Funding (Line Item #7000-9506) was restored in this version of the budget. Now we are asking for support to adopt one of the three amendments in the House that would increase this line item.

The three amendments are:

- 1) Representative Scaccia's Amendment #444 that would increase this line to \$5,770,000
- 2) Representative Grant's Amendment #873 that would increase this line to \$4,341,811
- 3) Representative Canderas's Amendment #1209 that would increase this line to \$641,811

You can send a message to your senator and representative electronically in under two minutes:

- Go to: capwiz.com/masslib
- Select the ISSUES AND LEGISLATION tab and
- Select HOUSE BUDGET AMENDMENTS NEED SUPPORT
- Complete the few lines of information requested. You're done!

If you choose to write a letter to your senator and representative, please include the information in this article in your letter:

We need as much funding as possible to support all of the core services and programs that used to be funded under this line, which was cut by 92% last year. Please consider helping us to show support for one of these amendments. While we understand there is much competition for dollars available, libraries need this money to fund the telecommunications infrastructure that keeps our libraries vital and useful to our citizens in the 21st century.

Thanks for your time, consideration, and action on this issue!

Friends Membership Dues Change

In September 2004, we will be raising the Friends' annual membership dues from \$5 to \$10. A \$5 membership category will still be available for seniors and students. The fee increase is required to cover the basic costs of three annual newsletters, mailings, etc. We continue to rely on our membership donations to fund special programs and capital projects for the Morse Institute Library. The Friends is an all-volunteer organization and that means your membership dues are used only for Friends-sponsored projects and services. So renew before September at the \$5 fee for best bargain in town!

Children's Library Purchases By Donna LaRoche

A generous gift from the Friends funded the purchase of several new items for the library's youngest patrons and their families. Dale Smith, Children's Library Supervisor, reports that a new Brio train table, new bags for more daycare kits, new books for the babies and toddlers story hours, and funds for the materials and construction of a mobile puppet stage are much appreciated. They will make a fine addition to the wonderful children's and family resources at the Morse Institute Library.

“You Look Like a Million Books” From Donation to Sale: the Books’ Journey

By Terri Evans

The Friends couldn’t have book sales without four key ingredients: book donors, shoppers, volunteers, and the books themselves. We sell 8,000-9,000 books at each sale. But what happens between donation and sale?

Library patrons leave book donations during library hours on the Friends’ cart, located just inside the library entrance on the right. Books are left in boxes, grocery bags, bulging black trash bags, and even tied with twine. Books on the Friends cart are not yet for sale, despite the temptation they offer browsers: they are sale inventory in the making.

Volunteers cart the books to the Friends’ book sorting and storage room on the lower level. The high volume of book donations means that this may need to be done several times a week to keep up. Bags are emptied and set aside for bagging book purchases at the next sale.

Books are then sorted by volunteers, who recycle magazines, damaged books, and textbooks, as well as outdated books that are time-sensitive, such as travel guides. They then sort the remaining books by category onto labeled shelves. Books that may have higher value are set aside for review and special pricing. The library donates its own overstock to Friends sales, including surplus "Speed Read" books when they are no longer in high demand. Books are sorted year round, as there is no break in the steady stream of donations.

Once a shelf is full, books are packed tightly into photocopier paper boxes, which are donated and delivered to the library by several Friends. Boxes are labeled by category and stacked in the sorting room. As a sale draws near, the boxes of culled and sorted books dominate the room, as the stacks rise to form a wall eight boxes high.

To watch a book sale set-up in operation puts the industry of ants to shame. On the Thursday before each sale, volunteers begin the laborious set-up process, ferrying hundreds of boxes of

books from the sorting room to the adjacent Meeting Hall. Boxes are emptied onto tables, segregated by category, and the boxes stored away. There are points in the afternoon when volunteers *swear* that the sorting room stacks are getting no smaller, and that the boxes of books are clearly multiplying when backs are turned.

At the end of each sale large-print books are donated to a senior citizens’ residence; children’s books are collected by a volunteer organization for libraries in the developing world; and several boxes of overstock mystery and fiction go to different community groups.

Eight thousand books lighter at the end of each sale, with one last cull of damaged stock, volunteers reverse the steps of a few days earlier. Boxes are repacked, labeled, carted, and stacked in the sorting room, where they will be joined over time by new donations, until the next sale. Then the cycle begins again.

Thanks to all of you who donate your books. You make the sale possible. And thanks to the volunteers who play so many parts on the path from donation cart to book sale.

To those of you who shop at the sales, there are 30,000 books waiting for you. And each has its own story to tell of how it got there.

Would you like to volunteer to sort books or work at the next sale? Please contact Terri Evans (508-655-6747 or bevanst@earthlink.net). The next Friends’ book sale is Saturday, June 12 (9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) and Sunday, June 13 (12 noon – 3 p.m.) ☐





Library Summer Weekend Hours

Weekend hours at the library change beginning Saturday, June 19, through Labor Day. During these months, the library is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and closed on Sundays. ☐

New Programs for Middle Schoolers

Librarian Abby Reid joined the staff recently as the Young Adult Librarian. She will be visiting the middle schools in June. Abby has planned a summer of activities for Natick's middle schoolers:

- ☼ reading clubs
- ☼ movies
- ☼ craft programs
- ☼ mother & daughter book group
- ☼ science programs

For more information, pick up a flyer at the library or visit the Morse Institute Library web site at www.morseinstitute.org. Don't forget, books from the school reading lists are available in the Young Adult Room beginning June 15. ☐

Friends Working Together ...

Continued from page 1

Ms. Belmore thanks the employees of the Middlesex Savings Bank for making baked good donations and invites anyone who would like to contribute favorite foods to the sale to drop them off at the Senior Center on the Thursday or Friday before the sale. The address is 117 East Central Street and the Senior Center is located at the back of the Lincoln Center.

Letter from the Library Director

I would like to thank the Friends, one and all, for over 10 years of support for community library services. The Friends supports the Speed Read titles, a browsable collection of bestsellers that can be checked out for a week. The Speed Read books had over 28,000 circulations in 2003.

The Friends continues to support the bookmobile and its services. The bookmobile is back on the road year round with the support of the Friends and visits neighborhoods, senior housing, schools, and nursery schools. With a donation from the Friends, the bookmobile staff hopes to add some extra stops this summer. The Friends is also supporting the Children's Library "Summer Program Series," which includes puppet shows, music, and craft programs.

Recently, the Friends developed packets of information for new library patrons. The packets provide information about the Minuteman Library Network, how to access the online catalog and your library record from home, online databases, and library programs for all ages. This is a project library staff felt would be helpful to new users, and the Friends made the project happen.

It is with great appreciation that, as library director, I take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Friends. I have worked with many of you for almost a decade, and as new Friends volunteers step forward I am grateful for your support of the library and your effort to make the library a vital part of the community. I look forward to working with you this summer!

Best wishes,
Paul Polk
Library Director



Visit the Friends online:
www.natick.info/morselibraryfriends



Friends' Pride

By Fran Weisse

Show your pride as members of the Friends of the Morse Institute Library by:

- Carrying our new large book bags! (\$13)
The hunter green bags measure an ample 12 by 18 inches and have an outside pocket for extra storage.
- Wearing a Friends' apron (\$10) when making meals or serving your family and friends. There's a handy front pocket and the adjustable ties makes the apron a perfect fit for anyone. Aprons are available in two colors: elegant black or stylish red.
- Using your Friends note cards (\$5 for 6), which are perfect for dashing off a quick thank you note and proclaiming your affection for our library.

Samples of these items are on display in the library's foyer and may be purchased at the circulation desk.

During our book and music sales, you can also purchase:

- "Mood" pencils (5 for \$1). These pencils change colors when you hold them.
- Limited Edition Friends' T-shirts (\$5).
Comfortable 100% preshrunk cotton.
Available in large and extra large sizes.

All proceeds support Friends' initiatives on behalf of the Morse Institute Library! ☐



Wild West Luncheon

By Fran Weisse

Choruses of "Howdy, Pardner!" greeted the library staff at the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon hosted by the Friends on April 8. The western theme transformed the Meeting Hall with cowboy motifs, cactus, and multi-colored bandanas.

Choices from the chuck wagon buffet

included Tennessee BBQ's pulled pork and chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, and cornbread. Each staff member received a bandana and a cactus souvenir.

Thanks to Friends members: Jan Eckert (party planner), Marjorie Gove, Marie Craig, and Fran Weisse. ☐



Ice Cream Social

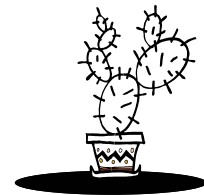
By Pat Thomas

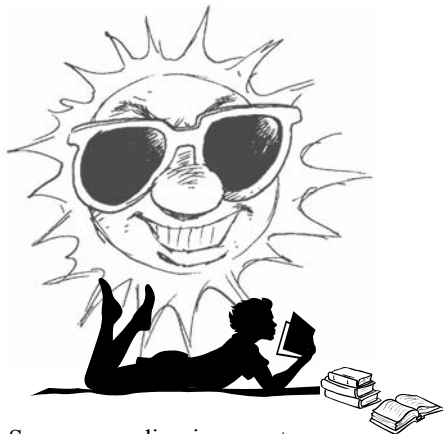
The weather outside was frightful, but the afternoon was just delightful for the 100 or so guests attending the Morse Institute Library's Ice Cream Social on Sunday, April 4. A festive atmosphere permeated the library's Meeting Hall, as the Squirrel Hill Olde Tyme Jazz Band entertained an audience comprised of music and ice cream lovers ranging in age from nine to ninety.

There was toe-tapping and knee-slapping to the rhythmic music for almost an hour, and then the treat turned from music to ice cream. The Friends provided and served vanilla or chocolate ice cream (or a little of both), embellished with a choice of sprinkles, jimmies, nuts, strawberries, bananas, caramel or chocolate sauce, and of course, whipped cream.

After the calories were consumed, lip smacking guests returned to their seats for more of Squirrel Hill's Dixieland sounds. A few energized listeners took the opportunity to whirl around the floor in unison to the beat of the band.

All agreed that the Ice Cream Social and the great jazz band was "the way to go" on a soggy Sunday afternoon! ☐





Summer reading is a must.
So don't forget to shop with us.
Sunny smiles will abound—
'Cause you'll find bargains all around!

**Come and shop at
the Friends'
Book & Music Sale**

Vast selection. Low prices.

Saturday, June 12 - 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 13 - 12 noon – 3 p.m.

Morse Institute Library
Lower Level

START YOUR SAVINGS NOW! CLIP AND SAVE THIS COUPON!

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



of the Morse Institute Library

Please print:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

One coupon per customer.
Coupon expires 6/13/2004

Volunteers needed for:

- Set up on Thursday, June 10 – 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Help during sale times.
- Packing up on Sunday, June 13 – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Please contact: Marie – 508-651-2837 or
Donna – DLRoche57@comcast.net**



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 Friend _____ \$10 Good Friend _____ \$25 Family Friend

_____ \$50 Special Friend _____ \$100 Best Friend _____ Exceptional Friend (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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14 East Central Street
Natick, MA 01760

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Morse Institute Library

— ★ —
14 East Central Street
Natick, MA 01760
www.morseinstitute.org

★
Circulation Department
508-647-6520

★
Reference Department
508-647-6521

★
Children's Department
508-647-6522

Morse Institute Library Summer Hours

Beginning Saturday, June 19, 2004 through Labor Day,
the library schedule will be:

Monday—Thursday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

The library will be closed on:

Monday, July 5 – In observance of Independence Day
Monday, September 6 – Labor Day

For information on library hours, please call 508-647-6520
or check the library web site at www.morseinstitute.org