

Off the Shelf

News from the Friends of the Morse Institute Library



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends in the Time of COVID-19

Who could have imagined what 2020 would look like? The library closed on March 12, the Friends' May book sale, spring newsletter, and ScrubADub car wash coupon fundraiser were canceled, and our September book sale has just been canceled. Now what?

Once the library re-opens, you'll find an expanded Book Nook, with more shelves full of books to buy. Here's an opportunity to restock your personal bookshelves while supporting the Friends. And soon we hope to offer the option to pay for your books with a credit card – stay tuned!

I hope you'll join us for the Friends Annual Meeting on September 15. This year we will meet online using Zoom. While we won't

be able to offer refreshments, we *will* share information about the library and the Friends and you'll have the chance to ask questions of library management and Trustees and the Friends Steering Committee. A link to the meeting will be provided as the date draws near.

In closing, I encourage you to join or renew your membership in the Friends. With our book sales canceled, our ability to raise funds to support the library is drastically decreased. Join through our website www.morsefriends.org or mail your check made out to *Friends of Morse Institute Library* to PO Box 502, Natick, MA 01760 (or c/o Morse Institute Library, 14 East Central Street.

Stay safe and well, and happy reading!

— Carol Gloff

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Tuesday, September 15
Annual Meeting of the Membership
7:00 pm
Via Zoom

September 26-27
Book Sale
CANCELLED

October 17-23
National Friends of the Library Week

Look for Friends-sponsored Morse Institute Library events in the Library's Morse Messages e-newsletter!



What was happening behind the scenes when the Morse Institute Library was closed due to Covid-19? A lot.

In a video put together for the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting, Library Director Jason Homer talks about circulation growth before the pandemic; the spike in demand during the pandemic; and how Library staff rallied to the challenge. The video is also available on the Friends website. <https://tinyurl.com/MIL2020SATM>

WORD TO THE WISE

Please spread out your book donations over time

As we start taking book donations after the library re-opens, we're asking donors to **limit donations to two boxes OR four grocery bags a day** so we are not overwhelmed.



Processing donations is an all-volunteer exercise complicated by COVID. When books come in, they are quarantined for 72 hours before they can be sorted or boxed up. You can picture the logistical challenges and health precautions that are necessary.

In pre-COVID days we would get 600-1000 book donations every week and that kept us hopping. By limiting the number of books you bring in with each trip, you'll help us manage the incoming volume of books.

We appreciate your help in "feeding in" your donations gradually.

Thanks for your patience

While the library has been closed we haven't been able to regularly access mail addressed to us and delivered to the library at 14 East Central St.

This means it may have taken us longer to deposit your membership check and you may have received a renewal reminder after you sent in your payment.

We appreciate your patience—and your membership!

Funded by the Friends
TOP 10 SPEED READS
Summer 2020

1. *Walk the Wire* by David Baldacci
2. *The Lies That Bind* by Emily Giffin
3. *Hideaway* by Nora Roberts
4. *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd
5. *A Week at the Shore* by Barbara Delinsky
6. *Camino Winds* by John Grisham
7. *28 Summers* by Elin Hilderbrand
8. *The 20th Victim* by James Patterson
9. *Fair Warning* by Michael Connelly
10. *The Other Mrs.* by Mary Kubica

ANNUAL MEETING
Election of Steering Committee
Candidates

At the Annual Meeting we will be voting to elect three Steering Committee members to two-year terms. The candidates are

Kelley Halchuk, candidate for election (first term)

Cindy Tylock, candidate for election (first term)

Kelley and Cindy both sort book donations for the Friends.

Joan Watts, candidate for re-election (second term)

You are cordially invited to the

**FRIENDS OF THE
MORSE INSTITUTE LIBRARY
MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING**

Tuesday, September 15, 2020
7:00 pm

Online via Zoom

Annual Report
Election of Steering Committee members

A link to the online meeting will be sent prior to the meeting.

Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/friendsofmorse) and follow us for up-to-the-minute news on our fundraisers and other activities.

Thank you, Morse Institute Library Staff!

Thanks to Jason Homer and the Library staff for your remarkable and creative efforts to build community while the library building has been closed to the public.

Note that we don't say "while the library was closed," since library staff have been hard at work. In the past months, you've developed creative programming for all ages, set up contactless pick-up for checking out library books (a model for the state), held virtual story hours and road trips, and assisting with genealogical research, for a start.

You've taught us, shared with us, and piqued our curiosity. And you've reminded us more than ever, that we are lucky to be part of such a remarkable and generous community.

Off the Shelf

A newsletter published three times a year by the

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

Steering Committee

Carol Gloff, *President*
Terri Evans, *Vice President*
Barbara Sanchez, *Secretary*
Steve Kellogg, *Treasurer*
Judie Ham
Joan Watts

The Friends of the Morse Institute Library is a 501(C)(3) organization. Established 1991

OVERHEARD ONLINE

I can't believe all of the programs the library's been offering during COVID. My kids (and I) love it!

*Time to renew your membership?
Pick up a form at the library or renew online at
www.morsefriends.org/join*

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

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