



Friends of the Topsfield Library

WINTER-SPRING 2005

ONE SOUTH COMMON STREET, TOPSFIELD, MA 978-887-1528

Dear Friends,

We wrapped up 2004 with a very successful balsam wreath sale. Many volunteers assisted with the decorating and delivery of our wreaths. If you missed it this year, consider joining us next year! Spending time in the Gould Barn with the smell of fresh greens and the sound of holiday music has a way of putting you into the spirit!

If you have not yet joined or renewed your Friends membership, please take the opportunity to support our organization. The financial assistance we receive from you allows us to continue to offer remarkable programs to our community. Please stop by the library to join. Dues are valid through August 2005 and cost only \$5 for senior households; \$15 for families; or \$50 for corporations.

The Friends sponsored many stimulating programs for our community this fall. In October, children attended a craft session to paint and decorate a candy jar to hold their Halloween treats. In November, Native American folk entertainer Patricia Bade visited us. The children were captivated by her collection of authentic materials and her fascinating storytelling. Approximately 60 students attended presentations by "Wilmore the Wizard." The kids *literally* went home with a bag of tricks! Children put their creative minds to work as they decorated adorable gingerbread houses in December. The room was filled to capacity with eager artists, hoping to secure a place in the decorating contest. The finished products were unique and looked spectacular lining the Library Meeting Room. Immediately following the annual tree lighting, The Friends offered cookies and hot chocolate to those who visited the library. The Masconomet Chorale treated the crowd to festive carols.

Many attended a presentation by Topsfield resident Tim Higgins on the experience of building a Cobra automobile. He supplemented his intriguing discussion with a slide show of his amazing project. With a generous grant from the Gould fund, we were fortunate to host internationally known author Alice Hoffman. She shared excerpts from her latest book, *Blackbird House*, spoke of her interesting writing career, and graciously answered questions from the audience.

We hope you had a chance to attend some of our events, and look forward to seeing you at the upcoming programs described in this newsletter.

Library Hours:

Monday	10-8
Tuesday	10-8
Wednesday	10-5
Thursday	10-8
Friday	10-5
Saturday	12-4
Sunday	Closed

Visit the library online!
www.topsfieldtownlibrary.org

Museum Passes Available to Friends Members

Children's Museum, Boston
Children's Museum of Portsmouth
DeCordova Museum
Franklin Park Zoo
Harvard University Art Museums
Harvard Museum of Natural History
Higgins Armory Museum new!
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Museum of Science
Peabody Essex Museum
Plimoth Plantation
Roger Williams Zoo
Wenham Museum new!

Upcoming Friends Programs

Please join us for another season of enjoyable programs. Advance registration, if required, should be done at the library, and programs will be held in the Library Meeting Room unless noted otherwise. Specific dates and times will be publicized well in advance. For more up-to-date information on all the programs, please contact the library.

Adult

An Introduction to College Admission (January 20, 7:30 pm)

You are invited to hear Lynn Wellbourne speak on how to identify appropriate colleges and universities, the importance of interviews, SAT's, essays, and recommendations in the application process. She will also cover the significant differences that can exist between various college admission processes.

Evening of Knitting (February, TBA)

Join us for an evening of knitting. Location: Village Stitchery, Route 1, Topsfield.

Evening of Poker for Dads and Teens (March, TBA)

Fathers and teens are invited to come and learn the basics and some variations of the card game Poker. Poker has become a very popular hobby – make sure you understand the rules of the game!

Youth

Dominoes (March 9, 1:30 pm, Proctor School)

Peter Bloom will teach students domino physics. Students will be provided with the ability to explore hands-on problem solving, cause and effect, energy transfer, angles and degrees, distribution of weight, and center of gravity. Students will build and then activate a 5000-unit domino chain complete with towers!

Make a Friendship Collage (May 9, 1:30 pm, Friends Meeting Room)

Wendy Rosenbaum will teach students how to make a collage using basic scrapbooking methods. Each child will bring in 5-6 photos and leave with a completed friendship collage that they can hang in their room or locker. All supplies will be provided during the class. There will be a \$3 charge to cover the cost of materials.

Children

Annual Spring Event (March 26, 9:30 – 11:00 am)

Come to our Spring Event, for children ages 9 and under, at Steward School. Join us for crafts, games, a special visit from the Easter Bunny and an exciting egg hunt.

Mother's Day Craft (May 9, 1:00 pm)

We are having a flower arrangement craft for children to make as a gift for their moms. Come show Mom how much you appreciate her by making her a beautiful arrangement in a teacup. Fee is \$2 per person.

Friends News

Holiday Balsam Wreath Sale

A record number of wreaths were sold in December, and many volunteers came to help! Thanks to all of you for supporting this important fundraiser.

Annual Winter Book Sale

The Annual Friends Midwinter Book Sale will run for three days at the library starting Tuesday, February 15. On that first day, between 10 am - 8 pm, Friends Members only will be allowed to attend the sale. The book sale will then be open to the public on Wednesday, February 16, between 10 am - 5 pm, and Thursday, February 17, 10 am - 8 pm. *No donations for this sale please.* We are looking forward to seeing you.

Think Spring...

The Friends Annual Book Sale at the Strawberry Festival will take place in June. Donations will be gladly accepted for this sale during dates to be announced in the spring.

Volunteer Opportunities

We still have two vacancies on the Friends board. We are looking for two people to lead our Teen Programs. If you'd like to hear more of what these positions require, please contact Jen Baker (887-4204) or Denise DuChainey (887-0242).

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Friends MidWinter Book Sale

Friends Members Only
Tuesday, February 15
10 am - 8 pm

Open to the Public
Wednesday, February 16
10 am - 5 pm

Thursday, February 17
10 am - 8 pm.

No donations for this sale please.

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Looking for something to do during your school vacations?

Childrens Room

Come to your town library with crafts and activities for children of all ages.
February 22 & 23 and April 19 & 20

Movie Night

Don't forget about movie night! We will be showing some wonderful children's movies complete with popcorn!
February 25 and April 22 from 1-3 pm

Library News

The library staff looks forward to finishing some projects in early 2005 to start some new initiatives. As always, we look forward to another successful year providing information, services and entertainment material to all who visit.

New Web Page

The Federal to State grant, better known as the LSTA Customer Service Grant, will end with a new library web page. A lot of thought and planning has gone into the library's new web design, giving a more interactive calendar section and making the most frequent needs obvious to online visitors.

Email Helps Us!

E-mail communication is one of the library's new initiatives that benefit patrons and the library. During the holidays, we asked patrons to give their e-mail address as a gift to the library. Patrons that have their own e-mail address and check mail regularly can sign-up for the e-mail notification program. All communications will be forwarded through e-mail, giving patron quick communications while saving the library significant money. The library saves in postage, paper supplies, envelopes and staff time. With the increased number of requests for library material, this is a significant savings. This year alone, the library has saved several hundred dollars in supplies - and we would rather buy a book!

Museum Pass Program

Another library project is working with the Friends to make patrons aware of the museum pass program. Each year the Friends offer a variety of interesting programs for the library. The Friends membership fee and bi-annual book sales generate the funds to support special library needs and programming. The Friends membership includes the museum pass program, which offers free or discounted entrance to fifteen New England museums. Please stop by to see our display, join the Friends today, and visit a museum tomorrow.



Children enjoyed themselves as they participated in the Gingerbread House Workshop last December.



Friends of the Topsfield Library

ONE SOUTH COMMON STREET, TOPSFIELD, MA 01983

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #130
Topsfield, MA

Museum Passes

Have you taken advantage of your Friends museum pass benefit lately? Passes for many museums are available for use at the front desk. Most passes admit two for free or offer a substantial discount. New museums have been added to the already extensive list of passes. We are excited to now offer passes to both *The Higgins Armory Museum and the Wenham Museum*.

The Higgins Armory Museum is dedicated to the study and display of arms and armor. Founded by John Woodman Higgins to house his vast collection, the museum contains more than 8000 objects on four floors. It is the only institution in America dedicated to the collection, preservation and interpretation of arms and armor. Visit the Higgins Armory Museum now until 6/23/05 for a fascinating exhibit of the Arms and Armor of Shakespeare. Visit their website at www.higginsarmorymuseum.org to find out about special events.

The Wenham Museum portrays 300 years of social history in a combination of permanent and rotating exhibits. The museum houses a permanent collection of over 5000 dolls, a train room with seven working model train layouts, doll

houses, antique toys, toy soldiers, and the c. 1690 Clafin-Richards House. Life in a Nutshell, an exhibit featuring fine scale modeling of historical events in running now until April 3, 2005. The museum offers several other adult and children activities. Visit their website at www.wenhammuseum.org to learn more.

The following are just a few of the current exhibits at participating museums. These passes may be reserved in advance.

Museum of Science: "Mission to Saturn" – Planetarium show
"Roar: Lions of the Kalahari"

Museum Fine Arts: "Art Deco" – The glamour, design and style of the Art Deco Period
"An Altar Restored" – Bernardo Stozzi's upper and lower canvases of *St. Sebastian Tended by Her Maid* have been reunited again after more than 200 years.

Peabody Essex Museum: "Contemporary Art from the Arctic" and
"Carved by Nature" – Untamed Traditions in Decorative Art.