



GETTING TO KNOW US

There was a time when we tiptoed into libraries, careful not to make the slightest noise, and quietly read and wrote what was required. We hoped our pen scratching wasn't too loud causing the tight-lipped librarian to give us the evil eye or a loud "shh." All we wanted was to be done with this silent, gloomy place and get out into the sunshine.

That was yesterday. Today, most libraries have a new agenda. They're adjunct community centers where children come to learn while being entertained. After school the building fills with students doing homework in a place where their parents know they're safe. On the upper floor that holds the adult collections, a wide range of ages and interests sit companionably, with computers and printers within easy reach. At least, that's what our Library is like.

From its beginning in the 1876 Colburn School building to its renaissance in the now five-year-old facility, the Westwood Public Library has almost doubled in size, accessibility and ease of use. On September 15th, the Library gave itself a birthday party and it was well-deserved.

The Friends of the Library (FOL) works to earn the monies that allow the Library to offer an astounding list of programs for every age and interest. We underwrite the author visits, children's and adult programming, museum passes, and access to digital books and films. Our volunteers go out into the community to spread the word about what we offer. We do this with your donations and nothing gives us more pleasure than to say "yes!" when there's a request for funding.

But that's not what we're focused on in this newsletter. Today we want to forever dispel that image of the stern, black-dressed librarian who maintained the eerie silence. Inside this newsletter you'll meet just six of our very approachable staff members. It was a hard decision to choose few from many, but we hope, in time, you'll recognize everyone who works so hard to make our Library your Library. Our staff members like nothing more than getting to know you, helping you make the most of every visit so you want to come back again.

"Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities."

- R. David Lankes

Are You In On The Book Sale “Secrets”?

If you want to be sure to find that book you’ve been looking for or a stack of books you can’t resist, don’t miss the upcoming fall book sale. This year it’s on Thursday, October 18 at 1pm through Saturday, October 20 at 3pm. No matter how often you’ve been to the sale, we bet there are some “secrets” you didn’t know.

Secret #1: Those first in the door have the best selection. This year we have several special books on the shelves, including a collection about railroads. Check our Table of Specials—impressive books that are a little bit more expensive, but worth every penny.

Secret #2: We’re very strict on opening and closing times. We’re open when the library is open on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday we close at 3pm sharp, no exceptions!

Secret #3: Although the quantity and quality of our books are second to none, books aren’t the only things we sell. You’ll find an excellent selection of audiobooks and DVDs, too!

Secret #4: Each book sale has completely new offerings. There are no leftovers. At the end of each sale, we save a shelf of choice volumes for the lobby FOL Book Nook and pack up the remainder to make room for the next sale’s donations. The FOL Community Book Service Committee (CBSC) helps build Boston area library collections in lower income schools, nursing homes, prisons, veterans’ organizations, and children’s hospitals. When there’s a need, we also send books to out-of-town libraries affected by natural disasters. After all those books are distributed, a dealer from New Hampshire, with whom we’ve had a long-term relationship, swoops in with his truck and takes whatever is left, leaving us a discretionary donation. Once the shelves are clear, we get ready for the next sale.

Secret #5: There are definite dates when books can be donated. Because of space limitations, we have to cut off donations on September 30 and February 28 before the October and March sales. We accept donations again on the first of November and April. (If you must donate at another time, please call Felicity Botwinik at 781-769-7840. Felicity has been on the Book Sale committee for 35 years and has all the answers. She’ll help you.)

Secret #6: We have strict donation rules. All books must be in good condition. We accept all genres of fiction, non-fiction, art, poetry, cookbooks, and children’s books for all ages. We also welcome DVDs and audiobooks. We DO NOT ACCEPT audiocassettes, 8-tracks, LPs, VHS tapes, encyclopedias or magazines. Textbooks and other educational books must not be more than five-years-old.

What isn’t a secret is that the bi-annual Book Sale is a great way to find inexpensive books for you and your family. The Book Sale Committee (Felicity Botwinik, Sue Kunkel, Megan McCarthy-Schmitz and Cheryl Bornstein), assisted by other FOL volunteers, looks forward to getting to know you on Oct. 18th through 20th.



“When I get a little money, I buy books; and if any is left I buy food and clothes.”
- Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)



Some People You Should Know

Getting to know the staff members at the main library and in Islington is a special delight. Let us introduce you to just a few of these remarkable people, any one of whom deserves a full page introduction. However, you can learn more when you talk to them. Each one told me it's the people they meet in the library who make their jobs so fun and rewarding.



Carol Devlin - Library Assistant

Carol's often found behind the Circulation Desk, but she pops up wherever she's needed, especially helping patrons find books they might like. She's been at the library for 35 years—and has no plans to retire. "I would miss the people and activities that make each day special."

Karen Gallagher - Head of Circulation Services

A big smile and the hint of Ireland in her voice make Karen instantly identifiable. Besides overseeing the front desk, she directs the daily receipt from and shipment to libraries in the Minuteman Network, moving hundreds of books weekly, "But I always make time to spend with visitors."



Lizzy McGovern - Head of Children's Services

Lizzy loves watching children's faces light up when they discover the joy of reading a book. She has a magic touch that reaches each child, making books and coming to the library real treats. "I want today's young readers to bring their children and grandchildren to the library they've loved."

Molly Riportella - Head of Adult Services

Molly is based at the desk upstairs, but you'll see her everywhere. She maintains and orders for the second floor book and AV collections, helps with technology issues, plus oversees and promotes adult programming. Her favorite activity: "Helping reticent visitors feel comfortable asking for help."



Claire Connors - Islington Branch Librarian

Claire has run the Islington Branch since 2005 and has her hand in everything that goes on. She runs several programs, knows adult and children's books, answers technology questions and keeps the small branch feeling like home. "I love the loyalty of people who come here at any age. They're all welcome."

Kevin Craven - Custodian

When the MBTA automated, Kevin joined the library staff. You'll see him at both libraries handling general repairs, cleaning floors, clearing snow, changing lightbulbs and generally keeping everything shipshape. He's always on the go. "I want the library to look as good in 15 years as it does now!"





“Why Does the FOL Need My Money?”

We’ve all asked it as we receive those endless pleas for donations in the mail, email, radio and television, and even at the checkout counter. It seems as if every organization wants our cash. Yes, they’re tax-deductible, but frustrating.

Here’s why the FOL asks you for a yearly donation. If you’ve looked at the insert sheet tucked in this newsletter, you’ve seen a representative list of programs the Library presents to anyone who comes in the door. Do you get anything for free? Neither does the Library. Government grants don’t begin to cover its needs, so they ask the Friends of the Library to underwrite these offerings. The FOL exists to pick up the slack and keep the Library open and busy serving its community.

And you can be sure your donation goes entirely to the FOL’s mission to assist the Library. We don’t spend it on unwanted notepads, return address labels or calendars designed to make you donate. Every penny you give us goes to the Library we love. So please send in your donation and make sure we’ll always have two vibrant library locations in Westwood.

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.”

- Henry Ward Beecher



Junie B. Jones, the Musical: This delightful adaptation brings to life four of Barbara Park’s best-selling books. The genuinely comical (and not strictly-for-kids) musical was developed by Theatreworks USA. The sassy little diva, Junie B. Jones, and her adventures in first grade will awaken a young person’s desire to read. Performed by the new Westwood Community Players group here at the library, this program is 45-60 minutes long. You have your choice of three different show times to catch this wonderful entertainment.

Thursday, November 15, 6:30pm

Friday, November 16, 4:30pm

Saturday, November 17, 11:30am

(This is a special lunchtime edition. Bring your own snacks and covered drinks).

