

FEBRUARY 2011
NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARIES

Supporting Library Programs through Membership and Sales

530 Washington Street Wellesley, MA 02482 781-235-1610

www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org

Greetings from the President

Happy New Year, and thank you to all who have been our Friends during the past year! We welcome 2011 with excitement and renewed energy! Our Board continues to thrive in our new organizational structure, tapping creativity at every turn. Our 2010 book sales (3 multi-day sales, a summer children's sale, and our annual one-day holiday sale) brought truly marvelous profits for a combined record-breaking total of \$32,232.47! It is with dedicated, concerted effort that these sales are prepared for and executed, and many thanks goes to everyone that continues to be involved in this ongoing, worthwhile process.

The Friends thank you for your high quality book donations. We are pleased to be able to offer these to our buying public so we may continue to sponsor enriching programs and museum passes for all Wellesley patrons to enjoy! Because of limited space and decreasing market value on certain items, we will no longer be accepting Books-On-Tape (cassette format), Records/LPs, or VHS tapes. Please bring these materials to the book section at the Wellesley RDF.

We are looking for more volunteers to lend flexible time to our ongoing book sale efforts. We welcome help in the areas of local area book pickups, book sale set-up, book sale floor help, and public relations. We are lots of fun to "work" with, and we look forward to you joining us in 2011! If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact us at:
FWFL.Membership@gmail.com

Our next book sale is February 3, 4, 5 & 6 and we're looking forward to seeing you there!

Arlene Schulz, President

To contact us:
FWFL.Membership@gmail.com
Drop a note at the Library or
Leave a message at 781-235-1610, x1202

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Many Ways to Support the Friends

MEMBERSHIP

Fish Friends of the Month

Just outside the entrance to the Children's Room in the Wellesley Free Library live some exotic creatures with names like "lamprologus," "socolofi" and the more pronounceable "spotted zebra." The fish tank and its former inhabitants were a donation from the family and friends of Peter Kittredge Geiser (October 4, 1960-August 9, 1974), but the current occupants are now lovingly attended to, and their home is maintained, through the support of the Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries. However, when Library funds are low, the Friends need to support more library programs than before, and maintaining the fish is becoming more challenging.

In 2011, the Friends are launching a new way for Library patrons to help us support the ongoing maintenance of our fish through the "Fish Friends of the Month." For a donation of \$50 or more to the Friends, an individual's or family's name and their picture (if desired) will be placed on a placard near the fish tank for that month, in recognition of their support of the wonderful fish.

Please consider being among our first Fish Friends of the Month! Contact Rani Elwy, Friends Board Member, at relwy@bu.edu, for more information or to sign up as a Fish Friend!

Your Membership

January is Membership Month! We are very grateful for your generous support and thank you for your gift of Friendship! Once a year, we send out a renewal packet for your Friends Membership. The Friends are dedicated to enhancing the quality of the Wellesley Free

Libraries and your membership donation is an essential part of the funds we need to accomplish our goals. This year, we are pleased to announce that we are bringing back the Life Membership option. Being a Life Member means you will have all the benefits of membership without the need to renew annually. The cost for this new level of membership is \$300 per household. As always, we appreciate your continued support!

We're Fun To Work With!

Have you ever thought about expanding your involvement with the Friends? The Friends are actively seeking volunteers to help with the many details surrounding our book sales. Whether you have only an hour to spare or would like a more active role, we would love to have your help! Our newly redesigned Membership envelope gives you several options. Please look for it with your January mailing.

E-Newsletter

Thanks to those of you who are already receiving this newsletter via email. If you're now receiving a hard copy newsletter and would like to make the switch, please send your email address to: FWFL.Membership@gmail.com

You will have fewer pieces of paper on your desk and the knowledge that you've taken one more small step to help the environment! If you are receiving this via email but would like to have a hard copy newsletter sent to you, please email the above address and note "hard copy" in the subject line.

Have you reserved Friends-supported museum passes to the Harvard Museum of Natural History? Located in Cambridge, the Harvard Museum of Natural History was established in 1998 as the public face of three research museums: the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Harvard University Herbaria and the Mineralogical and Geological Museum. Today, it is the most visited attraction at Harvard, with 180,000 visitors a year, including 33,000 school children in groups.

Indeed, it was through my daughter's 4th grade Fiske Elementary School field trip to the Museum that our family first learned about this treasure. Located in the heart of Harvard, the museum looks like one of the esteemed college's educational buildings. But inside, a world of fossils, glass flowers, paleontology, minerals and gems open up on the third floor galleries. My children's favorite was the Hall of Mammals, where visitors can learn about the evolution of hoofed creatures, including some bizarre forms that emerged when South America was an island continent. Don't miss the fossilized skeleton of a 2,200-pound Glyptodont and the 15-foot long ground sloth and discover the colorful history surrounding the "Harvard Mastodon," a unique specimen collected in 1844.

When given the opportunity to visit other areas of the museum, I found myself pulled to the Glass Flowers exhibit. This unique collection of about 4,000 models, from 847 families, was created by glass artisans Leopold Blaschka and his son, Rudolph, in their

studio located in Hosterwitz, near Dresden, Germany. The commission began in 1887 and continued for five decades. With a toddler in tow, it was hard to remain in this section long, but fortunately the Museum Shop (another family favorite stop) offers The Glass Flowers at Harvard, a beautiful photograph essay book about the Glass Flowers, and Drawing Upon Nature: Studies for the Blaschkas' Glass Models, which tells the fascinating story behind the world famous glass flowers and other creations by Rudolph and Leopold Blaschka.

The Museum is located at 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge, and is open daily from 9am to 5pm (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's). A tip if you are driving to the Museum: arrange for a visit on a Sunday morning and arrive right at 9 am—you'll be able to park for free at the meters on Oxford Street!

See <http://www.hmn.harvard.edu/>

Written by Rani Elwy, Board Member

