

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

It's Spring 2011, and who can believe it after THAT winter? Thank you to all of our Friends who renewed their memberships, and to all for their continued support.

The Fish are looking for some supporters of their own: please consider becoming a Fish Friend. For a donation of \$50, your name and picture (if desired) will be placed on a placard near the fish tank for that month, in recognition of your support of the wonderful fish. To sign up as a Fish Friend, contact Rani Elwy at relwy@bu.edu.

Gail Levin, first rate art historian and author of *Edward Hopper: An Intimate Biography*, will be discussing her newest book *Lee Krasner: A Biography* (released March 22, 2011) at our May 26th Arnold Lecture! See the article in this newsletter. The book has already received very positive reviews from many media sources, including the *Boston Globe* on April 12th and the April issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

Our next book sale is very soon: April 28, 29, 30 & May 1. Come join us for great book bargains!

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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May Fish Friends of the Month

Oscar and Maggie are Coton de Tulears. Known for their friendliness and compatibility, Oscar and Maggie have all types of friends. Becoming a fish friend just seemed natural for them. They want to play with the fish, but don't know how. Do you think they should?



ARNOLD MUSEUM LECTURE

Author Gail Levin and Peabody Essex Museum

Arnold Lecture 2011

The Friends are pleased to announce that Gail Levin, the author of the recently released *Lee Krasner: A Biography* (William Morrow) will be our distinguished speaker for the 2011 Arnold Lecture. The lecture will be held on **Thursday, May 26th** from 7-9pm in the Wakelin Room of the main library. Ms. Levin will speak about her new book and be available for book signing after her lecture. Admission is free of charge.

Ms. Levin is the author of 12 previous books on twentieth century and contemporary art and is an expert on the lives and work of Edward Hopper and Lee Krasner. She is currently a distinguished professor of art history at Baruch College and the Graduate School of the City of New York. She has lectured all over the world, curated exhibits in New York City, Valencia and Tokyo and has photographs in public collections in New York and Georgia.

At turns vivid and eye opening, *Lee Krasner: A Biography* examines the evolution of a woman whose life was as dramatic and intriguing as her art. Lee Krasner is best known as the artist-wife of Jackson Pollock, the renowned abstract expressionist painter. Yet in this riveting new biography, the first full-length account of her colorful life, Levin challenges previous portrayals of Krasner, and shows that she was an independent and resourceful woman of uncompromising talent and prodigious energy. Krasner emerges as a significant artist who deserves her place in the twentieth century's cultural lexicon and artistic pantheon.

Drawing on new sources and numerous personal interviews—including with Krasner, whom Levin knew and inter-

viewed during the last years of the artist's life—Levin has written a dynamic, compelling, and moving portrait of a brilliant woman that recovers Krasner's voice and allows us to see that her life intersected with and informed her art.

The Friends are pleased to present Ms. Levin for the Arnold Lecture and we look forward to seeing you there!

Museum of the Month: Peabody Essex Museum

Take a trip to the North Shore and visit a real gem, the Peabody Essex Museum. The oldest continuously operating museum in the United States, the PEM boasts extensive collections of art from New England and around the world. The PEM has an impressive permanent collection of about a million pieces of art, primarily from the 1700s to today. In fact, the PEM holds one of the major collections of Asian art in the U.S. But wait, there's more! The museum also owns 24 historic structures and gardens. One big draw for young and old is Yin Yu Tang, a well-preserved 18th century Qing dynasty house. Yin Yu Tang was home to the Huang family in China for more than 200 years, and was shipped to Salem from China, and reassembled at the PEM. It is the only example of Chinese domestic architecture outside of China. Visitors can journey through two centuries of rural Chinese life in a 3-D way that never fails to impress. In addition to Yin Yu Tang, visitors can explore New England history at the other homes and gardens owned by the museum and located in the neighborhoods surrounding the museum. And, if all that touring leaves you hungry, stop at the Atrium Café or the Garden Restaurant before you head home. The museum pass provided by the Friends admits 2 people with a \$5 co-pay per person.

After Each Book Sale

What happens to leftover books?

We are so fortunate in Wellesley that book donations come into the library year round, enabling us to have three regular sales per year, plus one or two specialty sales (holiday, childrens', vintage books). In order to keep books moving through the process, we must always find a place for the books that are not sold during a sale. Many books are purchased on Sundays at the bag sale, but there are always some leftovers and we strive to find a productive place for them.

One organization that has come to take our remaining books is More Than Words (MTW), a nonprofit social enterprise that empowers youth who are in the foster care system, court involved, homeless, or out of school, to take charge of a business. Working as a team to manage an online and retail used book business and a café in Waltham, the MTW youth are developing skills and confidence that will help them become responsible adults.

Another organization that has come to pick up books after a sale is Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center, a rigorous middle school for girls located in Dorchester with adult education offerings as well. Other books have headed overseas to an organization called Bagong Kulturang Pinoy (BKP) which sets up mini-libraries for children in impoverished areas of the Phillipines in day care centers, schools, churches, and community centers. Some of our books have found a home at the Wellesley High School library, a jail, the Women's Lunch Place, a Veterans Administration hospital, and an African village. One of the newest organizations we have met is called Project Library, a program funded by the Morin Foundation, which supplies reading materials to needy

public schools and libraries nationwide.

There are so many places for the wonderful books that do not sell at our library sales. No one wants to throw books away, so if you or someone you know is involved in an organization that might benefit from some free books, please let us know. On the Monday morning after each sale, while volunteers are cleaning up, the organizations that we have invited are able to come to take away books. We welcome any new ideas and would be happy to reach out to an organization that we haven't met yet. Please contact Dana Keep at danakeep@comcast.net.

