



The Friends of the Waltham Public Library Off the Shelf

735 Main St, Waltham, MA 02451-0698
FriendsOfWalthamPublicLibrary.org

Spring 2017

Would You Be Our Friend?

I'll say it flat out: we need YOU to become a member of the Friends of the Waltham Public Library. Why? To help us keep up the high level of services we have been providing to library patrons for decades. Membership for 2017 starts at just \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families.

Back when I was asked to join the board of the Friends some 10 years ago, I didn't actually know very much about the group. I said yes anyway because I love libraries, and I'm glad I did.

The Waltham Public Library has been a constant source of entertainment and knowledge for me and for my family, but even as I made frequent use of it I took a lot for granted; when I brought my kids to storytimes I never knew the Friends were paying for the craft supplies, and I never considered who was funding the puppet shows and concerts, the magicians, the lectures, etc.

I did not know that behind the scenes there was a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of the library, assisting in areas above and beyond the municipal budget and making sure programs and events are free to the public.

Realizing the breadth and depth of the support the Friends provide was a real eye-opener to me, which is why the theme of our membership drive this spring is "Did you know?". Each of the posters around the library during National Library Week (April 9-15) is aimed at bringing

people's attention to the work the Friends do in the hopes that people like you will join us in making it all possible.

As I finish my first year as president of the Friends, I am inspired by the incredible support this organization provides to the library - but there is so much more we could do. **The way people use the library has shifted and the library is shifting in turn to meet those needs. But the plain fact is that it requires money.** At this time, the Friends have two major sources of bringing in that money: memberships and the annual booksale.

The Friends have kept the membership prices the same for decades, counting on the volume of members to make up for the low price even as we have needed to spend more to provide the same level of support. But we can't make it work without you. **Becoming a Friend is an easy and low-cost way to support vital library programs and services, and is one of the best bargains around today for return on your dollars.** We also greatly appreciate and welcome any additional donations above the basic memberships. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

The Friends of the Waltham Public Library need you. Would you be our Friend?

Elizabeth Lear, President,
Friends of the Waltham Public Library

SAVE THE DATE!

- Saturday, May 13:
Watch City Steampunk Festival
The Athena School of Arms will be showing off their swordplay in front of the library, and once again the Salem Light Infantry (Salem Zouaves Civil War re-enactors) will be encamped on the front lawn.
- Friday, June 16:
Watch! Read! Listen!
Fundraiser, 6:30pm
Please join us for an evening of food and entertainment in support of our community-wide story program. Tickets on sale soon!
- Wednesday, July 19:
The FWPL annual Ice Cream Social featuring ice cream for sale and free live music on the front lawn! (Rain date Wed, July 26)
- Sept 16 - 24
Annual Booksale in the Lecture Hall;
Friday, Sept 15 is the Friends Preview Night!



IT'S EASY TO
JOIN THE FRIENDS!

Sign up online at
FriendsOfWalthamPublicLibrary.org

or
pick up a membership form
at any library desk

Annual memberships
start at just \$5!

Your FWPL membership shows
you value the Waltham Public Library
as a vital part of our community!

Upcoming Event Highlights

Watch! Read! Listen!

In 2016, the Waltham Public Library debuted a new summer program, Watch! Read! Listen! (WRL). By encouraging Waltham to experience a story together and providing supporting programs designed to delve deeper into a single story, we were able to start a community dialogue, uncover new perspectives, and mostly, bring people together in an entertaining and enriching way. We hope you enjoyed the programming and events centered around Rudyard Kipling's *THE JUNGLE BOOK* last year, and we ask you to join us this year for a whole new story. Stay tuned: the book will be announced in late April and programs begin in June. And don't miss the fundraiser on June 16th!

FWPL + Stonehurst

In October, FWPL collaborated with the Friends of Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate, to bring Edgar Allan Poe to life in a first-person presentation by actor Campbell Harmon. We followed this up in March with IRISH VOICES, readings and poetry from Irish authors presented by Stephen Collins. We are working on a number of exciting events, but mark your calendars now for Thursday, October 26th, when we present a first-person evening with Mark Twain (actor Richard Clark). Tickets go on sale in September with proceeds supporting FWPL and FoS, so keep watch for the announcement as these programs have sold out.

Did you know ...

All of the supplies and materials for storytimes and crafts are funded by the **Friends of the Waltham Public Library**

Did you know ...

Passes for free or discounted admission are purchased and made available by the **Friends of the Waltham Public Library**

Did you know ...

The **TEEN ROOM** Media Lounge

tasty snacks and programs like these



are funded by the **Friends of the Waltham Public Library**

Did you know ...

Since 1987, the feature film collection for children and adults has been funded by the **Friends of the Waltham Public Library**

Did you know ...

Free in-house laptops are available, funded by the **Friends of the Waltham Public Library**



Friends of the Waltham Public Library, Inc.
735 Main Street • Waltham, MA 02451-0698

Waltham Public Library

hours:

Mon - Thu 9:00AM-9:00PM

Fri - Sat 9:00AM-5:00PM

Sunday 1:00PM-5:00PM

WalthamPublicLibrary.org

781-314-3425

Non Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 51670

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

@WalthamLibrary



735 Main St., Waltham, MA 02451