



THE LIBRARY PAGE

The monthly newsletter by The Friends of the Blue Hill Public Library

Who We Are

The Friends of the Blue Hill Library is a volunteer group that raises funds for a variety of library purposes not covered by the library's operating budget.

What We Do

We fund: New York Times subscriptions, Must See Movie Series, Play Readings, Opera Previews, Great Decisions Series, Children's Programs, Literacy Programs, purchases of digital media, furniture, a/v equipment, staff appreciation gifts, scholarships for staff and volunteer development, and more!

FoL Officers & Board Members

Leslie Goode President
Ellie Andy Vice President
Steve Harris Secretary
Marjorie Yesley Treasurer
Rich Boulet Library Director

Lisa Arhontes-Marshall, Lucy Benjamin, Bonnie Copper, Michael Donahue, Nina Fleming, Jane Garfield, Kay Grover, Steve Harris, Susan Hudson, Fran Jennings, Clifton Page, Ken Schweikert, Donna Scheutzow, Norm Scheutzow, Linda Slaven, Anne Smallidge, and Mary Ulbrich

Letter From the President

What a remarkable winter this has been for a good read! I don't want to pile on to the seemingly endless conversation about weather, other than to say that despite all the snow, ice, school closures, and shocking cold, the Library has only closed one day due to weather. Remember that even if you can't make it into the building, many Library services are available online, including renewals, placing holds, and, of course, digital selections for books, periodicals, and music.

While visiting the Library remains a popular choice (we had 118,816 patron visits in 2014, an increase of 4.2% over 2013), the most impressive growth in numbers is related to electronic offerings. In 2014, we had a 27.1% increase in computer and Wi-Fi usage and 15% increase in digital library use compared to 2013. Visit the Library's website for information about all of these services. If you need help gaining access, please call the Library staff for assistance.

When you do make it on to the roads, remember that the Library now has extended hours, now opening at 9AM (instead of 10AM) on Monday through Saturday. This extra hour has proven to be nice, quiet time for reading the newspaper (and having coffee here) and a perfect stop after dropping the kids at school. Thank you to all the Library supporters who have helped make this increase in hours possible.

To keep well stocked on good reads to carry you through until spring, check out the Library's used book sale held on the first Saturday of each month. We continuously receive generous donations of wonderful books in just about every category you might want, including mysteries, cooking, history, children's books, and yes, gardening - prepare for spring!

Leslie Goode, President, Friends of the Blue Hill Public Library

Book Nook Book Sales

**Saturday
March 7
9am-2pm**

March Madness!

We are stocked with mini and not-so-mini collections.

Foreign Language books for adults and children

Nature: birds, insects, wildflowers, etc.

Maine

Art

and more!

There's always a Paperback Sale in the second floor. Most are like new and only 50 cents!

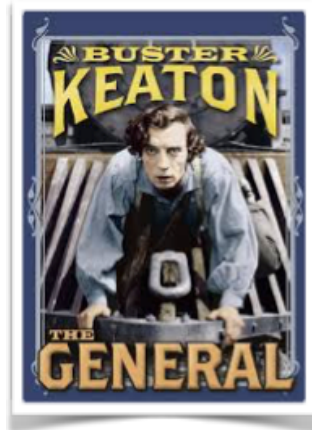
All children receive a free book

Donations are always welcomed. Review our guidelines for donated books on the library's website.

Must See Movies

The General (1927)

Thursday, March 12, 7pm



Staring Cast: Buster Keaton

Directed by: Buster Keaton & Clyde Bruckman

Release Date: 1927

Running Time: 1 hour, 18 minutes

Story: The two things engineer Johnny Gray (Buster Keaton) loves most in the world are his Southern belle sweetheart (Marion Mack) and his locomotive, The General. Set at the time of the Civil War,

when Northern spies steal The General, the intrepid Johnny single-handedly takes on the entire Union army in order to get it back. Against a backdrop of magnificently photographed Civil War battle scenes unfolds one of the great chases in movie history. Set almost entirely aboard moving trains, Keaton's THE GENERAL is physical comedy refined to elegant perfection and widely considered to be the actor-director's greatest film. (Alpha Video)

Play Reading

Death by Design - A Comedy with Murder

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30pm

Story: Written by Rob Urbinati, by the time of her death at age thirty-four, Lorraine Hansberry had created two electrifying masterpieces of the American theater. With **A Raisin in the Sun** she gave this country its most movingly authentic portrayal of black family life in the inner city. Barely five years later, with **The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window**, Hansberry gave us an unforgettable portrait of a man struggling with his individual fate in an age of racial and social injustice. These two plays remain milestones in the American theater, remarkable not only for their historical value but for their continual ability to engage the imagination and heart. (Amazon)

"I heard that weather is coming. Is my event still on?"
Stay in the know and visit the library's Facebook Page, monitor local tv and radio stations, or call the Library to see if your event has been or will be affected by inclement weather.

Volunteer Opportunity: Newsletter Editor

Do you love knowing what's going on before everyone else? Do you enjoy crafting the written word for others? Do well laid out newsletters make your heart sing?

Get in touch with your inner editor and help produce THIS monthly newsletter! After three years at the helm, current editor Lisa Arhontes-Marshall is turning in her keyboard. Are you the next editor?

Duties include managing a calendar to ensure contributors submit content on time, create and proofread newsletter, collaborate with FoL board and BHPL staff on various tasks, and provide final drafts to our printer via pdf. This is a 4-5 hour/month job for 10 issues (no July or August) each year. Must be organized, proficient with Word or Pages, and have a knack for making a layout work. Patience and a good sense of humor are most helpful.

Start in March or April with a final transition in May. Training (plus checklist and templates) provided. Contact Lisa Arhontes-Marshall at 374-5322 or lisa@beehivedevelopment.com to say hi and get involved.

Volunteer Opportunity: Used Book Prep Team

Some say that sifting through the book donations is like a gift that keeps on giving. We're lucky to have a strong book donation program and seek a few new members of our fun and friendly team!

Meet weekly to help clean and sort donations for our Book Nook and online book sales. Choose from Monday or Friday mornings for an ongoing assignment. Perks also include getting a first peek at new-to-us titles. Contact Ellie Andy at 374-5587 or elliear@myfairpoint.net to get learn more and get started.

BHPL Plant Sale: Saturday May 23

This year's Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 23rd. It's hard to believe but many plants are beginning to stir beneath all this snow and it's time to start planting seeds indoors for transplanting later. If you grow your own seedlings please consider planting an extra few six packs (or trays!) of vegetable or flower seedlings to donate to the Plant Sale. And, remember those flowering perennial beds! Consider what plants might need dividing this year to assure years' more vigor and bloom. The Plant Sale would love to receive your spare divisions. Look forward to more tips about donating plants next month. Questions? Contact Clifton Page, cliftonpagedesign@yahoo.co.uk

Children's Corner

Pat Horton, Youth Services: phorton@bhpl.net

Pre-School Storytime Ages 2 to 5: Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:15, Larchwood Room

Playgroup for Babies and Toddlers Birth to age 3: Wednesdays 10:30 to noon, Howard Room

Chess Club Ages 7 and up: Fridays 3:00 to 3:45 PM whenever school is in session

LEGO Club Ages 7 to 12: First Saturday of the month 10:30 AM to noon, Howard Room. Bring your own or use ours. Participants under 7 are welcome when accompanied by a grown-up.

From the Director's Desk

Rich Boulet, Library Director: rboulet@bhpl.net

Strategic Planning Update

Lately, in between snowstorms, members of the BHPL board have been working on strategic planning. Here is an update on the process: The process of seeking your input has gone very well. 452 individuals responded to our online survey and a total of 89 people were interviewed, either individually, or in groups. We hosted gatherings representing staff, seniors, middle school and high school, current and former members of the BHPL board, homeschoolers, area non-profits and businesses, Peninsula librarians and town officials.

The feedback we got was engaged, passionate and generally supportive of the direction the library has taken in the past. The online survey in particular had lots of great comments. Just for fun, I plugged all of the unedited words in response to survey question #1 –“briefly, what words do you use to describe the library”-- into a word cloud generator, and the results are really sweet! We heard compliment after compliment about BHPL being forward-thinking, welcoming, aware of our role, responsive, etc.

All of the respondents who answered the question about satisfaction with the library replied that they are to some degree happy with our services, 3% are satisfied, 14% are pleased and 75% are very pleased. (8% did not reply to that question.)



When asked if they do not use the library regularly, what would compel them to do so, one wise guy replied that a fancy bar with craft cocktails and good music would get him/her in the door. We're working on that.

In general it seems that people are satisfied with our schedule, particularly now that we are open Saturday afternoons, and more recently since the survey was issued, at 9:00AM Monday- Saturday. A lot of people cited Sundays as a major time of interest to visit the library as well.

When we asked people about other services not currently offered by the library that they would like to see, we got a ton of imaginative ideas to consider. Answers ranged from a café, more digitized local history, sing-alongs, computer courses, art instruction, homework help, Scrabble competitions, tool lending, skeet shooting (!), a piano bar with gin and tonics, etc. (I think that might be the same wiseguy mentioned above. S/he must have been having a stressful day!) One forward-thinking person suggested that BHPL schedule all community spaces to achieve one-stop shopping when looking for a meeting space.

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Throughout the survey, the few negative comments I read with any consistency were related to a lack of adequate parking, cost of overdue materials, and an interest in more guidance for accessing digital services, particularly among seniors.

All in all, this has been a rewarding exercise so far. I am grateful to all who have contributed, and I am optimistic that in May or June we will have a cohesive plan to share with you.

Governor's Budget Proposal

The library is strictly a non-partisan organization, and people of all political stripes are welcome and encouraged to use our services, get involved and just generally be themselves. However, I do feel like one of my obligations is to inform you when pending laws can impact library services. With that preamble out of the way, there are some aspects of Governor Paul LePage's current budget proposal that have caused concern in the nonprofit and library communities.

Elimination of revenue sharing: Revenue sharing is the process by which the state government recognizes that some of its works are carried out by local municipalities. The system was established in 1972, stipulating that 5% of the state's sales and income tax be redistributed back to municipalities. Increasingly since 2010 state government has been using it to balance its budget instead. The governor's current budget calls for the elimination of revenue sharing, which would amount to somewhere between \$60,000 and \$100,000 less dollars coming back to Blue Hill.

Taxes on non-profits: The IRS certifies that certain educational and scientific organizations should be tax-exempt, and similarly many nonprofit organizations like BHPL do not pay local property taxes. The Governor's proposed budget would allow for taxing any nonprofit whose assessed property value exceeds \$500,000. While some organizations would still be exempt, such as churches, and the proposal specifies taxing them at half the normal rate, the impact to BHPL would be an additional \$5,000-\$10,000 annual bill.

Maine income tax changes: The proposed budget also reportedly would eliminate itemized deductions on Maine income tax returns. This means that donors who make a charitable contribution to a nonprofit such as the library would no longer enjoy a tax advantage at the state level.

The proposed budget represents serious challenges to many nonprofits, if passed unchanged.

Grants to Green Update

Regular readers of this newsletter may remember that the library is a member of the Grants to Green Maine program. The aim of this program is to improve the energy efficiency of Maine's historic downtown buildings occupied by nonprofit organizations in Maine.

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At this point we have finished phase 1 of the process, having completed an extensive energy audit. The results of the audit are very helpful, and qualify us to apply for matching funding in phase 2 of the process, implementation of recommended remediations to the facility. We are currently working on that application.

Here are some of the changes that could potentially be funded by phase 2, pending award of the grant and securing local matching funds:

Retrofit most existing light fixtures to LED lights

Upgrade our HVAC system to more efficient means of heating and cooling

Add additional insulation to the basement foundation, etc. (The auditor was impressed with the past weatherization work that had been done in this regard).

If all proposed changes are funded the library would save upwards of an estimated \$8,600 in annual electricity and heating costs (10 tons of pellets plus 32,000kwh annually), save an estimated 24 tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere, and would proactively head off some future maintenance challenges.

I am looking forward to whatever improvements we can make to lighten our environmental impact and will try to keep you posted as we move forward.

New on the Shelves

Nonfiction

Moeller, Philip, Get What's Yours: The Secrets to Maxing Out Your Social Security

Barnes, Simon, Ten Million Aliens: A Journey Through the Entire Animal Kingdom

Selengut, Becky, Shroom: Mind-Bendingly Good Recipes for Cultivated and Wild Mushrooms

Gleeson-White, Jane, Six Capitals, or Can Accountants Save the Planet?: Rethinking Capitalism for the Twenty-First Century

McCloud, Scott, The Sculptor

Karlsson, Jonas, The Room

Harari, Yuval Noah, Dr, Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

Streetwise Maps Inc, Streetwise Paris Metro Map - Laminated Paris Subway Map for Travel - Pocket Size (2015 Updated),

Streetwise Maps, Metro Washington DC

Streetwise Maps, Streetwise Montreal Map - Laminated City Street Map of Montreal, Canada: Folding Pocket Size Travel Map (2015 Updated)

Streetwise Maps, Streetwise Washington, DC Map - Laminated City Street Map of Washington, DC: Folding Pocket Size Travel Map (2014 Updated)

Streetwise Maps, Streetwise San Francisco Map - Laminated City Street Map of San Francisco,

California: Folding Pocket Size Travel Map (2014 Updated)

Streetwise Maps, Streetwise Rome Map - Laminated City Street Map of Rome, Italy: Folding Pocket Size Travel Map (2015 Updated)

Streetwise Maps, Streetwise Boston Map - Laminated City Street Map of Boston, Massachusetts: Folding Pocket Size Travel Map (2013 Updated)

Streetwise Maps, Streetwise Chicago Map - Laminated City Center Street Map of Chicago, Illinois: Folding Pocket Size Travel Map (2014 Updated)

Preston, Diana, A Higher Form of Killing: Six Weeks in World War I That Forever Changed the Nature of Warfare

Blum, Howard, Dark Invasion: 1915: Germany's Secret War and the Hunt for the First Terrorist Cell in America

Caddick-Adams, Peter, Snow and Steel: The Battle of the Bulge, 1944-45

Schrijvers, Peter, Those Who Hold Bastogne: The True Story of the Soldiers and Civilians Who Fought in the Biggest Battle of the Bulge

Spencer, Charles, Killers of the King: The Men Who Dared to Execute Charles I

Herken, Gregg, The Georgetown Set: Friends and Rivals in Cold War Washington

Biography

Axelrod, David, *Believer: My Forty Years in Politics*

Gordon, Kim, *Girl in a Band: A Memoir*

Hughes, Langston, *Selected Letters of Langston Hughes*

Mann, James, *George W. Bush: The American Presidents Series: The 43rd President, 2001-2009*

Stewart, David O., *Madison's Gift: Five Partnerships That Built America*

Fiction

Barry, Quan, *She Weeps Each Time You're Born*

Beaton, M. C., *Death of a Liar*

Benditt, John, *The Boatmaker*

Berenson, Alex, *Twelve Days*

Berney, Lou, *The Long and Faraway Gone*

Bradbury, Ray, *We'll Always Have Paris: Stories*

Brekke, Jorgen, *Dreamless*

Burke, Shannon, *Into the Savage Country*

Burley, John, *The Forgetting Place*

Gardner, Lisa, *Crash & Burn*

Greene, Graham, *A Burnt-Out Case*

Hannah, Kristin, *The Nightingale*

Harrison, Jim, *The Big Seven*

Hepworth, Sally, *The Secrets of Midwives*

Herron, Mick, *Nobody Walks*

Hornby, Nick, *Funny Girl*

Kellerman, Jonathan, *Motive: An Alex Delaware Novel*

Kelly, Mary Pat, *Of Irish Blood*

Keneally, Thomas, *Shame and the Captives*

King, Laurie R., *Dreaming Spies: A Novel of Suspense Featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes*

Larsen, Reif, *I Am Radar*

Lethem, Jonathan, *Lucky Alan: And Other Stories*

Lippman, Laura, *Hush Hush*

May, Peter, *The Chessmen: The Lewis Trilogy*

McBeth, Colette, *The Life I Left Behind*

McCarthy, Tom, *Satin Island*

Newman, Sandra, *The Country of Ice Cream Star*

Oksanen, Sofi, *When the Doves Disappeared*

O'Reilly, Paddy, *The Wonders*

Osondu, E. C., *This House Is Not for Sale*

Patterson, James, *Private Vegas*

Price, Richard, *The Whites*

Robb, J. D., *Obsession in Death*

Sedgwick, Marcus, *A Love Like Blood*

Seskis, Tina, *One Step Too Far*

Shearer, Alex, *This Is the Life*

Steel, Danielle, *Prodigal Son*

Swanson, Peter, *The Kind Worth Killing*

Sykes, Sarah, *Plague Land*

Tremain, Rose, *The American Lover*

Tyler, Anne, *A Spool of Blue Thread*

Vaillant, John, *The Jaguar's Children*

Walsh, M. O., *My Sunshine Away*



Let Friends treat you to the Museum!

Thanks to FoL, enjoy FREE ENTRY for up to four people at the

Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor.

Reserve a Day Pass by calling 374.5515 x17.

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March 2015

Thanks to everyone who is coming out to enjoy the library's earlier start to the day. The free coffee and books were flowing in February!

In this edition...

Friends of the Library have new **Volunteer Opportunities** for you to consider. Join our **Used Book Prep Team**...or, could you be the next **Newsletter Editor**? March's **book sale** takes place **Saturday, March 7**, and features mini and not-so-mini collections. It's not too early to start thinking about spring and the **Annual Plant Sale**. Children's programs continue with **Playgroups + Storytime**, **Chess Club**, and **LEGO Club**. Thanks to dedicated library staff, the servers are back up and **New Titles** have returned!



Friends of the Blue Hill Library
5 Parker Point Lane
Blue Hill, Maine 04614

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday: 9am - 6pm
Thursday: 9am - 8pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Book Nook Book Sales:
First Saturday of the month,
10am-2pm



BLUE HILL LIBRARY