

SFL FRIENDS

Friends of the Sawyer Free Library Newsletter

Welcome and thank you for reading this newsletter. You are receiving it because you are already a Friend of the Sawyer Free Library or a supporter of the Library and we hope that you will consider becoming a Friend.

Event Calendar

June 11, Book Sale Preview Party – Friends Only, SFL Friends Room, 4-8PM, Refreshments

June 13, Annual Book and Bake Sale, SFL, 9 AM to 1 PM

July 30-August 1, Gloucester Sidewalk Days (Formally Bazaar)

New Library Services

Play Away – Books on a very small MP3 Player/IPods that you can listen to at your house or while on a walk

Over Drive – A system for downloading a book to an MP3 Player

Great Courses – An education lecture series that includes topics in history, literature, arts and science. The courses are available on either CD's or DVD's.

Next Read – A Noble Website that can be accessed from the Gloucester Library website. You can sign up for a monthly newsletter on line that provides you with a listing and description of a few books that reflect your interests in each of the categories that you pick.

E-blast Poster – from Children's Room with a List of Events



Saunders House Preservation

A successful merchant and representative to the Massachusetts General Court, Thomas Saunders built the Saunders house in 1764 to reflect his status in the community. It was one of the finest dwellings in Gloucester of the period. To quote preservationist Bill Finch, "only the Sargent House and the Babson House have architectural features that approach its grandeur. The house still retains its most architectural-

ly important exterior and interior features from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and has a high degree of cultural and architectural significance to the City of Gloucester." The 245 year old house has seen five major renovations since its original construction, but the grandeur of its original architecture remains intact. In 1884 Gloucester Lyceum and library
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From the Board

A library is the key public facility for providing the resources through its books, CD's and magazines for learning, research and pure pleasure. It is the Friends of the Sawyer Free Library that have the responsibility of helping the library provide its services by providing funds, volunteers, and advocacy where needed. Today all of these functions are more important than ever.

To provide funds we are selling items to the public with our Fitz Henry Lane book bags as the newest item and with

the return of spring our t-shirts will again be available. On June 11th for members of the friends only and on Saturday, June 13th for the public we will be holding our annual book and bake sale. But the most important fund raiser is membership in the friends. So please renew now.

Over the past twelve months we helped fund the purchase of The Lone Voyager book on tape narrated by the author Joe Garland. We also purchased
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From The Board

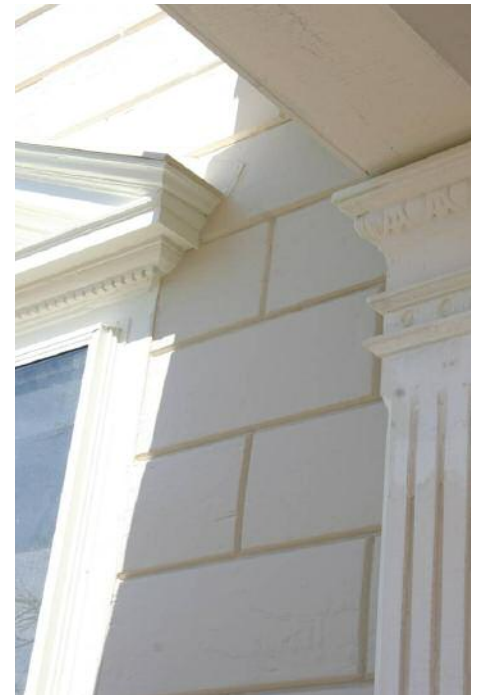
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some equipment including a new book rack for paperback books. We also continue to fund museum passes. We are considering a number of new projects for the next fiscal year that will enhance the library and its service to the community.

Volunteer services and advocacy for the library are emerging as new and more important areas to enhance the libraries ability to provide needed services and to increase the public's awareness of the library and its importance to Gloucester. One area where we have been providing volunteers but are working to increase the number of volunteers and expand the number of clients that are being served is "Books for the Home Bound". If you feel that you could be one of those volunteers contact Cindy Williams at the library.

The library needs colunteers from time to time to perform certain tasks. If you are interested in helping the library in this way, please contact the director of the library, Carol Grey.

Advocacy is something that each of us can do as individuals by talking about the library and the services that it offers. Check the library's web site or become familiar with the new services and books that are described in this newsletter. This summer the Friends of the Sawyer Free Library are going to provide a presence for the library by participating in the Gloucester Sidewalk Days (Formerly Bazaar), July 30, 31 and August 1. Our main purpose is to provide a venue where we can advocate for the library in a public setting. To help us be successful we are looking for some volunteers to help us at our booth during the Sidewalk Days on Main Street.



Saunders House Before and After

Saunders House Preservation *continued from page 1*

benefactor, Samuel Sawyer purchased the house from William A. Pew to establish it as the library's permanent home.

In the fall of 2008, based on a very thorough and exhaustive exterior conditions assessment by Bill Finch of Finch & Rose Preservation and Design Consultants, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to move forward with the renovation and stabilization project of the majestic dwelling. The Dusky Foundation very generously committed to finance the major portion of the project. Under the direction of Board President Greg Bover with management oversight by Design Technique Inc. of Newburyport, the long awaited renewal began. After thorough review, the project was awarded to local contractor Steve Goodick of W. Herbert Goodick, Inc. Every aspect of the exterior of the house from rooftop, to gutters from clapboards to windows will be addressed. As master painter Mike DeFalco completed the Middle Street façade, the inherent beauty of the magnificent building came alive. Not one person passes by on Middle Street

without pausing to admire this Gloucester treasure.

The project should reach completion by summer's end. Phase two will begin in a few weeks. Under the direction of Hilarie Holdsworth of Walker Creek Landscape and Design, the grounds and walkway surrounding the house will also be revitalized. A granite and brick walkway will replace the crumbling asphalt.

As Library Director, I am quite proud and honored to witness this long awaited transformation. The Board of Directors has dedicated themselves to this undertaking that shines brightly on the landscape of the City. The generosity and foresight of Samuel Sawyer together with the beneficence and commitment of the Dusky Foundation have given the citizens of Gloucester with a most cherished gift. The Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library is Gloucester's finest cultural and community center with the "new" Saunders House as its beacon.

Carol Gray, Library Director



Carole Finn as Snow White

Off to a Reading Start

A four-year-old sits on his grandfather's knee, lulled to sleep by the sound of his grandpa's voice reading *A Wind in the Willows*.

We all realize that this child, whose daily routine includes reading time will grow up with an advantage over children who have not had such exposure. "Before children want to read, they need hours of adult storytelling from exciting books." ("Lesson; Ambitious but Misguided: Kindergarten Academics," Richard Rothstein, 2001.)

We know that reading to children fosters their natural curiosity, opens new worlds and enriches their own, promotes new interests, expands their vocabulary, adds to the security offered by parents and encourages school success. Many educators feel that verbal ability is the best predictor of academic success.

Because we are aware of these advantages, it is our responsibility to create opportunities for those who might not have the luxuries of time and resources to read to our community's children.

Homebound Services at the Sawyer Free Library

The SFL offers book delivery services for patrons who are unable to get to the library themselves. If you or anyone you know are in need of this service, please contact Cindi Williams at the

library. A volunteer will then contact you and, on a monthly basis, begin delivering and returning books, audio tapes, CD's, etc., that are of interest to you.

Time to Renew

Never have the Friends of the Sawyer Free Library been so important. You only need to read, listen to or watch the national and local news to know that local governments like Gloucester have to reduce budgets. This includes the budget for our Library in Gloucester. The Sawyer Free Library must now look to the Friends even

more to provide funds for important, essential services that the library needs to provide to our community. We need all of you to sign up as a Friend of the library. Those that are renewing and those that wish to become Friends for the first time. It is important not only to renew but to renew at a higher level if you can.

Friends of Library Consortium

January 31, 2009, 9:00-12:00

Hamilton-Wenham Library

Approximately 50 People Attended

Two Libraries presented their unique situations, with questions taken afterward.

Then other library representatives told of their particular uniqueness.

Peter Jenner spoke about our Lyceum program.

Considerations for Gloucester:

Some libraries have two book sales per year (Salem & Billerica).

Some book sales were held in conjunction with a fair or town/city event.

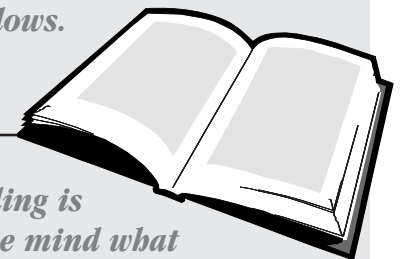
One library has a permanent book display in the library with current books for sale by the friends, one price for all books, box to put money in, honor system, rotate books once a month.

Some are sending newsletters via e-mail with hard copies available for those without e-mail.

Some had events for new residents, introducing their library, some had luncheons for friends.

Google has a free system for monitoring use of a website. Our Friends organization should be using the Sawyer Free Library Website.

*A home without books
is like a house without
windows.*



*Reading is
to the mind what
exercise is to the body.*

Friends of the Sawyer Free Library

2 Dale Avenue
Gloucester, MA. 01930

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 39
GLOUCESTER, MA

*The more you read,
the more you know
The more you know,
the smarter you grow
The smarter you grow,
the louder your voice
When speaking your mind,
or making a choice*

Anonymous

Don't forget to come to the Friends Book Sale party on June 11

FRIENDS OF THE SAWYER FREE LIBRARY 2009 - 2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(New or renewed memberships for current membership year - July 1st, 2009 – June 30th, 2010)

Name _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contact me by: Mail E-Mail (preferred) Phone

- Senior or Student \$ 5.00
 Individual \$10.00
 Family \$15.00 ____ number of friends in family
 Benefactor \$50.00
 Other Donation \$ _____



The Sawyer Free Library gets along with a little help of its Friends. Would you be interested in assisting with the following?

- Baking/refreshments Special events Advocacy

Please return to: **SFL Friends, 2 Dale Ave. Gloucester, MA 01930**