



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 3, Book Sale Preview Party – Friends Only, Friends Room 4-8 PM, Refreshments

June 5, Annual Book and Bake Sale, Friends Room, SFL 9AM to 1PM

Good Friends

My dictionary describes a friend as being someone who is attached to another by a “feeling of personal regard or affection.” A friend is someone who provides assistance or help; someone who could be counted upon in time of need. The Friends of the Sawyer Free Library certainly do understand the meaning of “friend.” At the eleventh hour in the budget process last June the library was in danger of losing funding. On the eve of the council vote, the calls went out to the Friends to rally support for the library.

Over 200 turned out at City Hall council chambers the next afternoon on behalf of the library. The presence of a large and vocal audience was not lost on the city council or upon the mayor. Not only did the council uphold library funding, each addressed the audience with their personal testimonials to the importance of the library in their own lives. People count. Your voice counts. Your stories count. Your numbers and voices spoke to the Mayor as well. This year she has agreed to support increases to the library budget over the next four years in order to return us to state certification levels. You, the Friends, are our

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The Children’s Room: Service for our future patrons

The Children’s Room of the library is one of the liveliest parts of the building. Between providing services to our very youngest patrons and offering our school age children a place for research and projects they still manage to squeeze in an astonishing number of special events.

At this year’s Corporator’s Meeting the new head of the Children’s Department, Christy Rosso, reminded

us all how many important things happen downstairs. Many of us may have fond memories of our own first library visits and we know that they formed the basis for our continuing love of reading and books. It’s important that the next generations of library users have that same wonderful anticipation when it comes to the library, whether it’s through attending one of the many

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What the Board is Up To

The Sawyer Free Library is the cultural glue that holds the city together and helps make Gloucester a wonderful place to live. It offers all of the services that you would expect from today’s library. In addition the Lyceum Committee offers a continuous series of talks and other presentations that educate and entertain. We are fortunate to have an important art collection and the Saunders House a 245 year old gem which is in the process of restoration.

All of these features of our library cry out for our support. One way each of

you can help provide this support is by becoming a Friend of the Sawyer Free Library for the 2010-2011 year. Also reach out to others that you know in the community and encourage them to join. Copies of this newsletter, for your friends, with the membership form on the back are at the circulation desk of the library. Also support the Friends Book and Bake Sale by attending the Friends Only Book Sale on Thursday.

This has been a busy year for the Friends. We had a successful book and

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Good Friends

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valued links to the community and to city officials.

As a Friend of the Library, there are three ways in which you can help: as a volunteer, as a financial supporter and as an advocate in the community. To volunteer, I urge you to contact your executive board to learn of opportunities to help. You can bake, make phone calls, write letters, assist at the library, assist at book sales, organize fundraisers, and do a little gardening to enhance the landscaping. As a financial supporter, continue to support your annual membership as well as book sales and other fundraisers. Consider memorial donations to the library in lieu of flowers for a loved one. As an advocate, be a strong voice carrying the message of service and programming at the library. Let your city officials know how valued the library is in the community. Inform your own friends and families of the services the library provides. Visit the library website, educate yourself as to what it offers, seek new members to join the Friends, attend library programs, and tell us what more we can do.

As Director of the Sawyer Free Library, I am proud and very pleased to call you a Friend. I thank you for your continued support and look forward to working on your behalf to make this treasured community resource the best it can be.

Carol Gray



Preparing for the Book Sale

From The Board *continued from page 1*

bake sale in June of 2009 raising more money than the previous year in spite of the economy. Your response to our membership drive this fiscal year has been very gratifying. The Friends participates in library functions such as the Middle Street Walk and the Corporator's annual meeting by supplying refreshments, selling items such as book bags and t shirts and providing other services. We are in the process of having a display case built to showcase the items that we sell to help the library.

The staff of the Sawyer Free Library has been reduced because of budget restraints. As a consequence they have to undertake extra duties in order to keep the library functioning and providing each of us with the services that we need to fully enjoy the library and partake of its various functions. To make their lives a little more comfortable and to show our appreciation for the extraordinary efforts that they are making we are in the process of redoing the two staff bathrooms. We have been selecting new floor coverings, cabinet tops and fixtures and funding the costs of material and labor. In a few

months the staff will be able to enjoy using facilities that are modern, clean and tasteful. You each can help by providing an additional donation when you renew your membership in the Friends of the Sawyer Free Library.

A new initiate, that the Friends Board undertaking is advocacy for the Sawyer Free Library. Last year we began by taking a space at the Gloucester Sidewalk Days on Main Street. A decision was made to have a passive exhibit which would provide a unique message about the library that contrasted with people sitting at a table giving out literature. It was a success. Read about M Goose in the article on page three. Next year we are considering some events that will expose the citizens of Gloucester to the inside of the Sanders House. We are also thinking about starting a program that focuses on the senior citizens of Gloucester. Both of these initiatives will bring people to the library, increase their interest in taking advantage of what the library offers and consider providing financial support to the library.

Friends of the Sawyer Free Library and Facebook

The whole world has gone electronic and we want to keep pace. We realized with a Facebook page, we could offer you a more responsive and useful tool for news of the Friends and the library than our once a year newsletter does. Just as an example, this spring Carol Grey was hoping some gardeners among the Friends would volunteer to help with landscaping upkeep ... and how would we ask you? Of course we can send out

batch e-mails but for many of you, already familiar with Facebook, already using it to keep in contact with grandchildren and friends, a note on the site would have been a much more efficient means of communication. Facebook has recently made it possible for you to like a page and we hope you'll choose to be among the supporters of the library who do so. Look for that e-mail inviting you to be our electronic Friend.

New Library Services

Listened to a good book lately?? – If you haven't been paying attention you might not have noticed the new services the library offers. As we've moved on to MP3 devices and E-Books, the library has kept up too. Look for the word OVERDRIVE on the Library's webpage. (<http://www.sawyerfreelibrary.org/>) It's the electronic gateway to free audio books for your computer as well as other listening devices. They've already added the iPad! Happily it's really easy to use and the library has provided you with a quick and easy guided tour although, of course, you can always get help at the library for your first attempt. All you

need is your library card and you can check out as many as 4 titles from the Digital Library at a time. Downloaded audio books are checked out for 14 days and are automatically returned to the library. You don't have to worry about over dues or returning anything. If you like to make plans, you can place up to 10 titles on hold, ready for you as you read/listen. It's all just one more example of the services your library offers you. Check it out today at <http://www.sawyerfreelibrary.org/overdrive.html>

Novelist – The Data Base Readers Advisory has a new service available thru the SFL called "Read Alike". It will provide the reader with a list of books that are similar to a book that you have read.

The Children's Room *continued from page 1*



story hours, checking out the latest new books to share or having a place that's welcoming and helpful for homework. The Children's Room does it all.

The Friends continue to support the Children's room, as it does so many library services, and recently granted Christy \$500 from the money you so generously donate so they may pur-

chase a much-needed new book cart and –more exciting – some musical instruments in anticipation of future programming.

Christy's enthusiasm lights up her face when she has a chance to talk about the Children's Room programming. As this newsletter is prepared, her focus is on the summer. What for us may be a relaxing vacation time, is the library's busiest. First, she and Katie Cipple, the new Assistant Children's Librarian, had work to do helping the schools – which have no librarians – by developing their summer reading lists. Such services to the public and private schools of Gloucester are an important part of their mission. This year, for example, Jean Dugan, another assistant, ran an after school homework club for 3rd and 4th graders. So many of these library services are invisible to us if we don't have children but so important to Gloucester.

Introducing M. Goose

Hello everybody! M. Goose here. People may wonder how I came to live here in the Children's Room



of the Sawyer Free Library. Here is my story. The call came that Sawyer Library needed me at the Gloucester Street Bazaar last August. I arrived via Rosie Sagall's studio. She said I was perfect for the job because people tend to smile when they see me because they think of reading and stories when they were young - perfect to represent our library. That's why I brought my favorite book with me, "Beloved Stories" by, ahem, M. Goose. Not to brag, but I am a published author.

Well, back to my story. The Street Bazaar, you may recall, was unfortunately quite a rainy event last year. Carol Kelly came to my rescue with a wonderful rain cape with a matching hat. After my engagement at the Bazaar was over, I moved to my permanent home here in the library.

At Christmas, Carol made me a lovely, red velvet cape and matching hat which I wore when Peter Jenner introduced me at the Annual Corporators Meeting. There was quite a crowd and I learned a lot about the history of my library home. I also wore my red velvet for the Middle Street Walk, I have a much more active social life than you might imagine. Not that I am ever bored, keeping my eye on the little ones here in the Children's Room where there is always something happening, thanks to the excellent staff. It so happens that I am mostly fashioned of recycled materials, newspaper, left over wood and tomato stakes and such things. This year the Children's Room has been doing a lot of projects based on recycling so I feel even more at home!

I understand that my image may be used as a logo for the Friends of the Free Library and that one of my goslings will be joining me this summer. What fun! I wonder if Carol has a special outfit planned for a certain stylish goose for the up-coming book sale?

Hope to see you there.

Regards, M. Goose

Friends of the Sawyer Free Library

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*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 2010 - 2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(New or renewed memberships for current membership year - July 1st, 2010 – June 30th, 2011)

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**