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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasant duty, as President of our group, to remind you that it is time to renew your membership. Please note that dues have changed slightly. Although our book sale, rug sale, cookie sale, and other activities raise significant sums, membership is the core of our togetherness.

My "message" in this Newsletter is twofold, and is prompted by the outcome of the BML Strategic Planning Group, which reported its final thoughts last month. Lee Sullivan and I were members of that team, and it seems clear that the Library will benefit greatly from having a sober, yet visionary, view of its future hopes and requirements. I am struck by the number of ways that the Friends already play an important part in the picture, and even more so by the very apparent need for our help in increasing measure.

I want to emphasize two things that we can and, I think, must do. One is now in place: a slight but justified increase in our dues. The other is simply the imperative for more and "stronger" members to work on our tasks; the most vital assistance you as members can provide is to volunteer (or get others to join) in our book sale: sorting every weekend or working the great Sale on the Green in the Fall. Please pitch in with muscles and brains alike by calling me, Lee, or any member of the current book sale team! We now give the Library about \$30,000 a year for important projects identified by the director and staff. I hope we make that number grow impressively in the years to come!

Richmond Browne, President

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. (Changed to 2nd Tuesday for this meeting). Refreshments will begin at 5:00. A slate of officers approved by the Board will be presented. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Members are invited to attend and vote.

BOOK SALE

Our seasoned volunteer sorters are on hand every Friday and Saturday morning from 9 to 12 on the ground level of the Volunteer Services Center, Harrison Ave. They will be there every weekend morning from now until the annual sale on the Green, September 15 to 17th. If you are able to help out a little or a lot, please call Tom Wilson at 483-6653. The book drop bin outside the VSC is available for books to left any time.

We are unable to take donations of textbooks, magazines, Reader's Digest condensed books, sets (encyclopedia, etc), LP's, and torn, dirty or damaged books. Throwing them away adds another burden to our sorters' job.

BOOK APPRAISAL – MAY 13

On Saturday, May 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Blackstone Memorial Library, John Loeb and antiquarian Curt Wendler of Centerbridge Books will offer appraisals of books brought in by FRIENDS and patrons of the library. These gentlemen will give you an idea of the rarity and potential value of your book and an estimate of its worth in market terms. The charge will be \$5.00 per book. All proceeds will go to the FRIENDS of the BML for support of library services and materials requested by the director and staff. In addition to John Loeb's dedication to the FRIENDS (he's a book sorter and is in charge of vintage books at our annual Book Sale), he's also a Trustee of the Blackstone Memorial Library.

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP WEEK

During Library Week in April we FRIENDS held our annual membership drive at the library. Our membership chair, Audrey Nelson, organized callers who in turn contact members who volunteer several hours at the library asking patrons to consider joining if they are not already members. Callers were Gusta Abels, Rosemary Donahue, Margaret Hofmeister, Priscilla Kissick, Mae Marinelli, Elsie McGregor, and Betty Mount.

Volunteers for the library were as follows: Philomine Acunzo, Joan Ahern, Irene Ayres, Anne Bartlett, Joan Berdick, Rosemary Booth, Kay Burns, Frances Canning, Barbara Carlson, Yohanna Casalini, Shirley Chasin, Yi-chen Chen, Joan Chetrick, Joan Chittick, Mary Cleary, Yolanda Cosenza, Charlotte D'Aniello, Judith DeCaprio, Joan Degnall, Rose Mary DeGrand, Karen Erickson, Eileen Field, Emily Fielding, Florence Fortune, Louise Gilpatrick, Edith Griffin, Moira Hambleton, Eleanor Higney, Lorraine Hill, Margaret Hofmeister, Mary Lou Iovene, Bill Iovene, Janet Kaminsky, Eunice Kaymen, Priscilla Kissick, Nancy Knowlton, Alice L. Lambert, Betty Lendler, Barbara Linsley, Charlene Longo, Dom Longo, Mary Lowery, Nancy Lynch, Mary McCarthy, Cathy McQuirk, John McQuirk, Jeanne McKeon, Charlotte Menchion, Betty Mount, Barbara Munger, Perdita Norwood, Norcotte Pemberton, Joanne Pompano, Al Russell, Margaret Sassian, Judith Selakoff, Susan Solomon, Mary Swift, Barbara Tamulevich, Betty Tobin, Malaine Trecoske, Roberta Trotta, Anne Varnay, Margaret Virgulto and Cathy Young. We thank these FRIENDS and also the library staff for their cooperation.

Because of their efforts, we have 62 new members.

RUG SALE

The rug sale sponsored by the FRIENDS brought in \$2000. Tom Simjian of Global Interiors in Guilford displayed magnificent rugs. The FRIENDS receive 10% of the sales that day. But Tom will kindly give us 10% of sales in his shop if you mention the BML when you buy. Greeters for sale were Harriet White, Evelyn Moulton, Alice Lambert, Polly Fitz, Richmond Browne, Peter Borgemeister, Irene Ayers and Joan Ahern. Thank you to all.

REMINDERS

Check your mailing label. If you have '04 or '05 on it, please renew your membership now.