

# FRIENDS OF THE KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

60 WINTER STREET, KEENE, NH 03431

Summer 2015

## Friends of the KPL Current Board:

President: Jane Pitts

Vice-President: Jill Cielinski

Secretary: Jean Kostick

Treasurer: Marilyn Gemmell

Book Sales: Don Wilmeth and  
Barry LeClair

Newsletter: Pam Knight

Katherine Heberton Fund:  
Paul Ledell

Membership: Marilyn Gemmell  
and Jennifer Stemp

At Large: Laurie Stuhlbarg and  
Hope Therrien

Trustees Liaison: George Scott

## Friends' Meetings

Board meetings are open to all members and are usually held at 7PM on the second Wednesday of the month at the library.

### Future Meeting Dates:

Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11 and Dec 9

## FKPL Online

[www.keenepubliclibrary.org/  
library/friends](http://www.keenepubliclibrary.org/library/friends)



Find us on Facebook!

## Mission Statement

The purpose of the Friends of the Keene Public Library is to support the Library and staff in areas not funded by the city budget and to provide enriching programs at no charge for adults and children in the community.

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Have ideas for the newsletter?  
Email [pamdknight@gmail.com](mailto:pamdknight@gmail.com)

## Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation 1863 to the March on Washington 1963

The Keene Public Library is one of 50 libraries selected to host the traveling exhibition, *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington 1963*, to explore the story of liberty and the American experience. The exhibition is the result of a collaboration between the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), and the National Museum of American History (NMAH), and made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

*Changing America* will help public audiences understand and discuss the relationship between two great peoples' movements that resulted in the Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington in 1963. Both events were the results of people demanding justice. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization, and vision. In both Americans can take inspiration from those who marched toward freedom.

The exhibit will be available in the library's **Kay Fox Room** from **June 24-August 7**, with an opening reception from 4-6 PM on **Wednesday, June 24**. In addition to the touring exhibit, the library has planned numerous events, including a film series, related to this topic. Information about the films and some of the programs is provided on page 2 of this newsletter under the heading *Changing America Programs*. Please consult the Calendar of Events on the library's website [www.keenepubliclibrary.org](http://www.keenepubliclibrary.org) for the most complete and up-to-date listings.



## The Friends and Swamp Bats Celebrate Mr. Gemmell's Reading with Ribby

Warm breezes, the smell of BBQ, and the annual celebratory Swamp Bat night to honor Mr. Gemmell's Reading with Ribby program are sure signs of summer. The Friends are delighted to sponsor this exceptional elementary literacy program for an eleventh year and hope you can join us out on Alumni Field on **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00PM** for the school parade, check presentation, and first pitch. We hope to see you there!

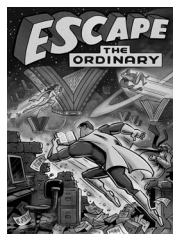


## Library Events Sponsored by the Friends\*

### PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

#### Babies...Kids...Teens...Adults

Join the Keene Public Library summer learning program! Explore heroes, superheroes and other extraordinary people, places and events. Enjoy weekly programs, special events, prize drawings, story hours and more. Sign up anytime in person or through the library website, [www.keenepubliclibrary.org](http://www.keenepubliclibrary.org), or you can join us for the **Superhero Breakfast Friday, June 20 from 9:30-11 AM in Heberton Hall** to learn about the many summer learning activities.



#### Friday Family Flicks

*Fridays 1-3 PM Auditorium*

Jun 26 Super Buddies  
Jul 3 Big Hero Six  
Jul 10 The Incredibles  
Jul 17 Up  
Jul 24 The Lorax  
Jul 31 The Lego Movie  
Aug 7 The Sword and the Stone  
Aug 14 The Tale of Despereaux  
Aug 21 Monsters University



#### Saturday Morning Cartoons & Cereal

*Saturdays 9-11 AM Auditorium*

*Jun 27 – Aug 15*

We're keeping the theme of heroes going as we'll watch some of your favorite superhero cartoons during the screening. We'll bring the cereal and milk too.

#### Changing America Comics Workshops

*Sat Jul 18 & 25 10:00 AM—1 PM*

Marek Bennett will show you how to draw a story as a comic in this hands-on workshop. We'll learn about Civil Rights Heroes like Jonathan Daniels. Come have fun at the workshop, which is open to adults and children ages 8 and up.

### TEEN PROGRAMS

#### National Teen Library Lock-in

*Fri Jul 31 6-11 PM Youth Dept*

Each year, libraries across the country invite teens to a "lock-in" on the same night. During the evening, there will be online visits from well known authors, fun contests, popular crafts, and multi-player games.

#### Teen Film Series

*Wednesdays 4-6 PM Auditorium*

#### Rockin' Teen Music Films

Jul 1 Scott Pilgrim vs. the World  
Jul 8 Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist  
Jul 15 Pitch Perfect  
Jul 22 The Rocker  
Jul 29 Empire Records



#### Superhero Series

Aug 5 Man of Steel  
Aug 12 Guardians of the Galaxy  
Aug 19 The Dark Knight  
Aug 26 The Avengers

**\*\*\*Note:** There are multiple **Maker** events for children and teens happening over the summer. Check the online calendar on the library website [www.keenepubliclibrary.org](http://www.keenepubliclibrary.org) for the most up-to-date information.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### Terrific Tuesdays

*Tuesdays 1-2 PM Heberton Hall*

*Jun 23— Aug 18*

Terrific Tuesdays takes place each Tuesday during our summer reading program. Each week there is a different special event designed for kids that are appropriate for children ages five and up. Younger children are welcome to attend with an adult.

#### Friday Crafts

*Fridays Jun 26—Aug 21  
Youth Dept Creation Station*

Drop-in at the library & enjoy a make-and-take-craft project. All day!



### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Changing America Programs

#### The Proper Ladies Sing Emancipation Songs

*Thur Jul 9 7- 8:30 PM*

From the rousing abolition song Get off the Track to the poignant refrain of The Vacant Chair, The Proper Ladies recreate moments from this turbulent time, bringing them to life through music.

#### Freedom Summer Film Screening and Community Discussion

*Tues Jul 14 6:30-8:30 PM Auditorium*

Participate in this community wide film screening and discussion led by SNCC veteran Jim Gates.

#### Called to Action: Jonathan Daniels and the Teenagers who Fought for Civil Rights

*Tues Aug 25 7-9 PM Auditorium*

Rich and Sandra Neil Wallace will discuss the research for their upcoming biography titled *Blood Brother: Jonathan Daniels and His Sacrifice for Justice*, with particular emphasis on their new interviews with teenagers he worked with in Alabama.

#### Changing America Film Series

*Wednesdays 7-9 PM Auditorium*

Jun 24 The Long Walk Home  
Jul 1 Abe Lincoln in Illinois  
Jul 8 Selma  
Jul 15 Lincoln  
Jul 22 Mississippi Burning  
Jul 29 Hey Boo: Harper Lee & To Kill a Mockingbird  
Aug 5 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner  
Aug 12 Lost Boundaries  
Aug 19 Anita: Speaking Truth to Power  
Aug 26 A Raisin in the Sun

#### Escape the Ordinary Lunch Break: 10 Weeks of Incredible Trips Near and Far

*Thursdays 12-1 PM Trustees Room  
Jun 18 – Aug 27*

This series of conversations with local travelers is an opportunity to explore places and peoples of the world. Bring your own lunch and join in the discussions. Coffee, tea, and lemonade will be provided.

\*This is just a sampling of library events sponsored by the Friends. The Calendar of Events on the library website has a complete listing.

# President's Annual Report 2014-2015

by Jane Pitts

*Friends:* I am delighted to report on another productive and successful year for this organization.

A healthy investment climate, two extremely successful book sales, and the generosity of our membership donations have provided the Friends with the means to fulfill our mission of supporting the library in areas not funded by the city budget. We have been able to make many purchases large and small for our lovely library: New **book carts**, materials and supplies for the **Maker programs**, new **video cameras**, **aquarium** supplies, and a new replacement **microfiche machine**. Once again we were happy to sponsor **Mr. Gemmell's Reading with Ribby** literacy program for an 11<sup>th</sup> year. Elementary school participation in this program continues to grow each year. We were able to continue our yearly commitment to develop the library's **permanent collection**, maintain 18 **museum passes** for patrons, and support additions to Youth and Adult programming such as **Family Dances** and the beloved **Summer Reading Program**. We made a contribution to the **landscaping** initiative again and were thrilled to have the funds to support **two summer internships**. Last but not least is the important financial role the Friends have played in the planning for the library's **expansion and renovation project**. We have made significant contributions to help fund the development of a preliminary schematic design by an **architect**, contracted to conduct a **feasibility study** for the project, and covered the expenses to host one of the informational **community meetings**.

Now those are all the things the money can do, but the heart of this organization lies in the quiet, hard-working, and dedicated efforts of its volunteer board members, book sorters, book sale helpers, and general membership. Together they have accomplished the following this year:

- **Held two phenomenal book sales:** Moved, organized and priced over 30,000 donated books and coordinated two three-day weekend sales that grossed the Friends just over \$30,000 – a 15% increase from last year.
- **Published an informative and engaging quarterly newsletter for our membership.**

- **Diligent financial oversight and record keeping:** Streamlined the reporting and review processes and transitioned from our treasurer of three years – Hope Therrien – to Marilyn Gemmell. We thank Hope for her conscientious and thoughtful financial reporting.
- **Marvelous membership management:** Has yielded a 25% increase in contributions and a growing list of new members to the Friends organization.
- **Partnered in the planning for the Library Expansion and Renovation project:** Board members have given a tremendous amount of their time towards the research and planning for an enhanced future space. Numerous meetings have been attended alongside our City of Keene and library staff and trustee partners, the project architect, and feasibility study consultant.
- **Hosted another exciting Annual Speaker Event:** The Friends welcomed best-selling author Chris Bohjalian to Heberton Hall at the beginning of June.

So as I have recorded above, another significant year for our organization and also a lot of hard work.

## Why do we do what we do?

I was recently sent an article entitled "In Praise of Libraries" by Joe Queenan that provides some insight into the answer to this question. He writes "Yes, public libraries are a place to learn, but they are also a place to play. They are a place to experiment, a place to go hither when one is expected to go yon. Not all work conducted in the library is rewarded, not all efforts bear fruit, not every pathway leads where you might expect it to go. So what? The journey is what matters, not the destination."

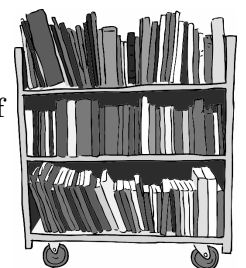
For another year, my journey has been made infinitely easier with the enthusiastic and thoughtful support of this board and the sage advice of the wonderful library staff. So Jill, Pam, Barry, Don, Paul, Jenn, Hope, Marilyn, Laurie, Jean & Nancy: thank you for being the team that makes the journey a compelling one to take.

## Confessions of a Happy Book Sorter

By Jonathan Bateman

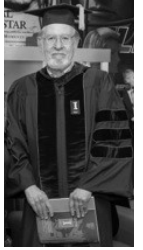
My sister Mindy Hawes dragged me into the business about eight years ago. I was led to believe that I might meet "attractive older women." This was true, but more to our point, I met thousands of attractive older books. My late wife was a newspaper editor, her mother was a librarian at Wellesley, our daughter decided to be a librarian at the age of four. She is now a chief librarian herself; our life was books. So now I am self-appointed editor of recorded stuff and Chief Scold. Condemned to our dungeon, we choose, price, and make editorial remarks. Come join us, especially if you are fussy book snobs (just kidding).

**Editor's Note:** Book sorting is a year round endeavor. If you'd like to join the team, please call and leave a message at 357-6191 suggesting good times for a return call.



# FKPL Board Updates

- At its May 13 Annual Meeting, the Friends of the Library Board held its annual election. The current listing of board members and officers is on page 1 of this newsletter.
- On June 2, the FKPL Board hosted another successful author event. Over 130 Friends and guests were on hand to hear an inspiring and entertaining talk by author Chris Bohjalian, who also signed books for attendees.
- Former FKPL Board president Don Wilmeth recently received the 2015 University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award, the highest honor conferred by the Alumni Association on behalf of the University. This award is presented to alumni who have attained outstanding success and national or international distinction in their chosen profession or life's work. Don, who received his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois in 1964, had a long and distinguished career as an academic, including almost 40 years at Brown University. He was also recognized on May 16 at Illinois' Commencement as an author, editor, teacher, stage director, and pioneer professor in the area of theatre studies.



## Be a Friend to the Library!



### Friends of the Keene Public Library Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Options

- Literary Sponsor \$1-\$50/year
- Literary Mentor \$51-\$100/year
- Literary Benefactor \$101-\$250/year
- Literary Patron \$251-\$500/year
- Literary Guardian over \$500/year

Does your employer match charitable contributions?

- Yes  No

If yes, please provide your employer's name and contact information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All contributions are tax deductible.  
Please make checks payable to Friends of the Keene Public Library, or FKPL.

Please return this form to:  
Friends of the Keene Public Library  
60 Winter Street  
Keene, NH 03431

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