FRIENDS OF THE LINCOLN LIBRARY

FALL 2025 newsletter

DONATE USED BOOKS, CDs & DVDs TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

Donation bins are located at:

- The Mall at Lincoln Station - 145 Lincoln Road
- Tracey's Service Station - Bedford Road & Route 2
- Lincoln Gas & Auto Route 117/S. Great Road

Many thanks to these generous Lincoln businesses!

A Conference on Small and Rural Libraries

Lincoln Public Library staffer Victoria Black recently attended The Association for Rural and Small Libraries annual conference on a staff development grant from Friends of the Lincoln Library. Here is her report:

"ARSL is a wonderful conference focusing on the unique needs, advantages, and struggles of smaller libraries like ours. Lincoln is fortunate to be strongly supported by the Town, the Friends, and the broader community. Many challenges faced by small or rural libraries—like book banning, budget cuts, and political opposition—haven't impacted us." Still, Black said, library life can present challenges for staff. "The keynote speaker Mychal Threets started the conference off with a positive tone and contagious joyful spirit."

Sessions Black attended focused on accessibility, privacy, improving circulation, and programming. "I learned how tiny changes can make significant and impactful differences, benefiting the community as a whole. For example, people may only think of "accessibility" as having an elevator. But it's much more than that. Accessibility can be improved with easy additions to our library spaces. Signs at lower heights, using sans serif fonts, and not using only color to denote collections are relatively easy and inexpensive changes to better people's wayfinding experience."

Connecting with other librarians and speakers, Victoria noted, was invaluable. "This conference gave me a renewed sense of purpose, inspiring me to implement what I have learned in our library's day to day operations."

The Friends of the Lincoln Library is a nonprofit organization that encourages community use of the Library and raises money to pay for services not included in the Town budget: adult and children's programs, museum passes, lectures, events, and special equipment and furnishings. The Town of Lincoln pays for the Library's repairs and maintenance expenses, staff salaries, and purchase of circulating and on-line media.

Your Gifts by the Numbers

When you donate to the Friends you may do so because like everyone else in Lincoln, you love the Library. But your gifts provide substantial benefits to the community.

Last year with the help of Friends' funding the Library offered 72 children's programs, with an attendance of 1,436; 109 adult programs, with an attendance of 656, and passes to 20 museums in response to 934 requests.

Combined program attendance topped 2,000! Figures like these demonstrate the concrete results of your generous donations.

Fifty Children's Programs in a Single Summer

Here are just a few of the summer programs sponsored by the Friends. Mass Capoeira Cultural Center captivated families who came to the Pierce House to learn about this Afto-Brazilian martial art that incorporates dance, music, and acrobatics. This program was held under the tent so families could spread out as they practiced basic Capoeira movements. Many thanks to the Pierce House for this truly magical afternoon with samba sounds under white lights. Meanwhile, dozens more summer programs were available.

An intrepid group of parents and children gathered to Conquer the Cube, a three week workshop to solve the 3 by 3 Rubik's cube, possibly inspiring the next generation of "speedcubers"! Meanwhile, the always-popular Mad Science left the audience astounded, amazed, and educated. Families learned the science behind illusions and even performed a Houdini-style escape with Mad Scientist and Lincoln resident Eve Matulevich.

Outside on the Library lawn, a different kind of excitement took over: goats! Kids enjoyed hands-on playtime with these cuddly visitors from Chip-In Farm in Bedford. And for those fascinated by ocean life, the Cape Cod-based Atlantic White Shark Conservancy delivered a jawsome program on shark tooth identification. Participants dug through fossil bins to uncover treasures from ancient sharks, whales, coral, and more. Everyone left with his or her very own shark tooth!

Plan a Museum Trip for your Group

The Friends sponsor the Library's discounted museum passes program, which offers half-price tickets to 20 Boston-area cultural institutions.

The Racial Justice Advocates of the First Parish in Lincoln organized a bus trip, led by Alice DeNormandie, Joan Kimball, and Barbara Slayter, to the Museum of Fine Arts to see an exhibit of John Wilson's work, "Witnessing Humanity." John Wilson (1922-2015) was an esteemed Roxbury artist, whose vision of life in America over sixty years captures persistent realities of disenfranchisement, racial prejudice, and social injustice.

The Library provided discounted passes to the MFA to reduce the cost of the trip for several guests, and Doherty's and bus driver Sam provided a special experience. To learn more about the museum passes, visit the LPL website: lincolnpl.org/services/museum-passes/ or call the Reference Librarian at 781-259-8465 x 3.

Friends' Book (and Comic Book!) Sale in the Vestibule

Have you noticed a change in the library vestibule? Now, as you enter the library, on your left you will see a great selection of gently used and like-new books. Take a good look! You will find a tremendous range of offerings, from bestselling fiction to biographies, history, cookbooks, art books, science and tech, classic literature, and more. In fiction, we've recently offered *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, *James* by Percival Everett, *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, and *North Woods* by Daniel Mason. In nonfiction, books such as *Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe, *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, and *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson have flown off the shelves. The bottom shelf is filled with books for kids, including board books, picture books, and chapter books, and a great selection of comic books is now available! Everything is priced to sell. Bargain prices mean quick turnover, and volunteers are always restocking the shelves with new choices.

How can the Friends offer such a steady

stream of great books? It all comes down to the generous people of Lincoln. We receive calls and emails from residents who are ready to send their books off to a new home and support the Lincoln Library in the process. All proceeds from the book sales fund programming and purchases for the Library.

Do you have books to donate? Please just email us at friendslincolnlibrary@gmail.com with your questions or to request a pickup. (And please be patient for a few days. We are all volunteers!) Finally, to everyone who has already donated, a heartfelt thank you. Hope to see you at the bookshelf soon!

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We thank retiring Board Member Nataly Dvash

Look for FOLL at Town Events

One of the things our Town is known for is its recurring community events, which span the calendar from the PTO Back-To-School picnic in September until the Independence Day Parade.

Community organizations and boards variously showcase their achievements, recruit new members, and hand out flyers for the adults and candy or other favors for the children. Pictured here are volunteers at our table for the PTO Back-To-School Picnic. Perhaps you stopped by the Friends' table?

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You can donate regularly or only one time through PayPal using your credit or debit card. Go to Lincolnpl.org. Click on 'About," then 'Friends of Lincoln Library,' and use the PayPal 'Donate' button or scan the QR code below.

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