

Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library March-April 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

We are not alone. Not as a community nor as a library. This has become very apparent during the past eleven months. Our little group of volunteers that hold positions on the Friends Board has been busy supporting the library, the staff, and the still-very-much-happening programs. We could not be more proud to call ourselves Friends of the Library.

We are part of the Massachusetts Friends of Libraries which is having their Friends Sharing with Friends Conference in April. The group has asked me to talk about how the Jonathan Bourne Public Library Friends group has stayed involved and interested during this "Zoom Era" that we are living in. Here is a sneak peek of what I plan to tell the many libraries that log on to the Zoom conference later this Spring.

I am a very lucky President to work with the talent, compassion, and dedication that this small group of volunteers possesses. Back in the early days of our shut-down, we were meeting every other week for Zoom calls that lasted two-plus hours to figure out how we could support the library staff, move funds to cover online programs, and also let our Friends group of nearly 200 members know that we were still doing our work. During that time, we started a Facebook page, sent out numerous check -in emails and also prepared newsy and entertaining newsletters. As the summer approached, we let the library staff know of our appreciation for their challenging new tasks by giving them all gift cards to a local market. When things appeared not to be changing in the fall, we successfully held a socially distanced and safe outdoor book sale; then we proceeded to bring the community our Caring and Sharing Auction online for the first time ever. The key is that we have relied on each other to bring ideas to the meeting and put in the energy to make these ideas a reality.

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February has been deemed Library Lovers Month and we are encouraging all Annual Members to renew their Membership. It is also a wonderful time to ask a neighbor or local family member if they would consider supporting the library that has given in spades this year. Swing by the library to grab a membership form from our decorated cart – you can't miss it with the red hearts all over! Renewals can also be done online at <u>www.bournelibrary.org</u> if you are not comfortable going out. Either way, we hope you will renew (or join for the first time). You are part of a great group of Friends.

With love for my Friends,

-Heather A.M. DíPaolo JBPL Friends, President



It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Stay current with Friends of the Bourne Library activities

and continue to receive our bimonthly newsletter. See page 2 for details.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

It's a new year and the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Library are looking forward to supporting our library's wonderful programs and activities in 2021.



Now is the time to renew your annual Friends membership. Your support of the Friends' mission is so important to us. Please submit your 2021 dues to the Friends in one of the following amounts.

Senior	\$20.00	Household	\$50.00
Individual	\$30.00	Lifetime	\$500.00 (one-time payment)
	ur dues by using the PayPal button h and mail in the form below with		ls online page at <u>www.bournelibrary.org</u> nk you so much for your support.
Please renew my	/ membership in the Friends of the	Jonathan Bo	urne Public Library.
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19 Sandwich Rd.			
Bourne, MA 02532			
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Getting to Know: Terry Johnson

In 2000, a momentous year for many, the Library welcomed a new staff member. Terry Johnson (right, with her niece Seidy) began her now 20-year career as part of a grant program that dealt with families and children. The job was a perfect fit for the mother of then school-aged daughters Meg and Kelsey. Her family has grown considerably since her marriage to Dwayne Johnson added his two boys, Devin and Henry, to the household. Both girls are now homeowners, but Devin and Henry are still at home in Bourne with Ollie and Finley, their two very cute dogs.



Terry has a lot of love for the position which she calls "a happy accident that allows her to work with families." When she took over as Children's Librarian in 2006, she never looked back (except to make sure her little ones were following her on Story Walks!) She earned her degree while working and took all that in stride, as well as managing a household and being a vital part of the Bourne Friends.

Terry always has something going on in the children's room, even in the midst of this year-long (so far) pandemic. Recently, Science Saturdays resumed (on Zoom now rather than in person), with 9 families and 25 people participating in the first program in January. As Terry mentioned to me, she was happy to see it all come together, as "preschoolers and vinegar have the potential to go so wrong..." While she and Miss Loretta, her assistant, were putting the kits together, Director Patrick Marshall entered the craft room—needless to say, he was a bit alarmed to see white powder everywhere—but trusted that Miss Terry as she is fondly known to her families had everything under control.

The pandemic has brought many changes to the Library, not the least of which is the inability to do the famous "Pajama Drive" that usually takes place in February. Miss Terry is almost solely responsible for the wins that have brought the Bruins hockey team to the library so often. For those who have not seen it, when the library building reopens, be sure to glance at the jersey on the wall near the Children's Room. Bourne is the only library in Massachusetts to have its own Bruins jersey and number!

Although she can't do everything, she is working "twice as hard to do half the usual programming." She puts out "Take and Make" crafts now instead of "Make and Take"! Every week, a new craft in a paper bag is set out on the Curbside Pickup Table for families

to take home. Check the library's Facebook page or website to see what is new each week.

As mentioned, outdoor Story Walks are all the rage well. Despite the cold and snow, as "Trailblazers" (kids preschool age and older) meet every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:15 and hear stories as they walk various conservation areas in town. "Stroller Warriors" (babies and toddlers and caregivers) enjoy the same at a different area from 10:30-11 each Tuesday. For February and March, Miss Terry has engaged "Big Ryan" to tell bedtime stories on Zoom each Thursday evening. She misses her families and children who participated so faithfully in every program before the pandemic. However, she says they can still enjoy the Library even if the building is closed.

Currently, under a separate grant, she has a new program of outside visits for families who have children preparing for kindergarten. The parents are given a book to read to their children, and Miss Terry meets with parents and children at their home or on Zoom; she brings a new toy for each child, and then does a follow-up.

Last, but not least, Miss Terry mentioned that her favorite color is green and her favorite food is cheesecake with strawberries or raspberries. So...if anyone is so inclined, it would be lovely to deliver one to brighten up her day!

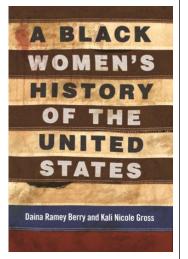
—Díane Ranney

What We Are Reading:

A Black Women's History of the United States

By Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross

February was Black History Month and March is Women's History Month, so what better title than the one I read recently as part of our church's book group. Before you rush out to get it, I must say that this is not a book for the faint of heart, nor anyone whose mind is already filled with what is probably a lot of false



histories. Unlike the "Alternative History" which is so popular today, this book is non-fiction, a work that took an extraordinary amount of time to research, and it deserves a fair amount of time spent reading. This is a book to discuss, to be prepared for tears when faced with the overwhelming statistics of slavery and its consequences; and, as I discovered in chapter after chapter, a book which needs a dictionary close at hand if one truly wishes to understand the content.

The women whose history is revealed in the notquite-300 densely written pages are those about whom many of us may never have heard, such as Isabel de Olvera, a woman of African descent who in 1600 petitioned the mayor of Querétaro, Mexico for "protection of her rights" as she embarked on an expedition with Spanish explorers. She was determined to go on the expedition into what is now Arizona, New Mexico and Florida but did not trust that she would be safe from rape or capture, even though she was a free woman under the law. I was immediately immersed in her story which I am certain not many (certainly none of my acquaintance) know. I was also struck with the modern-day remnants of her need for protection. While statistics show that 17.7% of all women who are raped are

white, the rest – an incredible 82.3% are women of color or mixed race. The statistic does not give the reasons, but the authors do. This is only one of the horrendously sobering numbers in their book.

From the first chapter, through the richly detailed pages of historical facts that I never knew, the book catches one's heart—or it did mine—in a way few books have in my life. I was astounded by the lives of these gallant women of color. I learned much of how the history of the African American community evolved and the price some paid just to live. I reveled in the stories of theatrical women like Matilda Sisseretta Jones, often referred to as "The Black Patti." Her musical career was one that should have been celebrated just as much as white singers of that time, but because she was Black, she suffered untold challenges to rise in the theater of her day. How many of us have heard of her—let alone heard her voice?

I could go on and on, but I would rather you read the book. Read and realize that "our" history is often filled with tremendous gaps—and it is time we recognized that. Then, perhaps, we can discuss it and seek ways to right the wrongs of more than 300 years of slavery and oppression. I cannot think of a better way to honor Black and Women's History Months than to do something every month rather than relegating such wondrous people to just a short 30 days in the year.

—Díane Ranney





As Heather mentioned in her letter in this issue, the Friends of the Bourne Public Library recently took a basket of edible goodies, various teas, and thank you notes to the staff at the library. They have been working so hard to handle the curbside requests finding our requests, checking them, running them out to the curb when you call, carrying them to the isolation room when they are returned, checking them back in, and shelving, only to start the process all over again. We are so grateful.

But not all the library's resources are accessed this way. There is a huge number of library materials that can be borrowed from your own home, just by sitting down at your computer and heading to the Library website at http://bournelibrary.org. Then click on the tab labeled "eBooks/eAudio/Digital" and start exploring. Here are just a few of the possibilities.

There are ebooks and audiobooks galore under Overdrive, Freading, and Hoopla. You will find not only the books you are searching for that can be easily downloaded, but also suggestions for new books in your favorite genres, an online book club with author interviews and discussion questions, and magazines devoted to the arts, business, sports, news, fashion, food, health and fitness, and much more. There is even a special section for downloading books that you can read on your Kindle.

If you want to take a break from reading, close your eyes and listen to music you've downloaded from Freegal. You'll find songs, whole albums, and music videos here. From Johann Bach to Garth Brooks, you can download music files without breaking copyright laws!

Or maybe you feel like microwaving some popcorn and having your own film festival. Click on Acorn TV for period dramas, comedies, mysteries, and British drama series unavailable elsewhere. There are documentaries too. Fascinated by British royals? Try *A Royal Tour of the 20th Century* for example.

Looking to buy a new washing machine or mattress? Go to Flipster and search for the 2021 *Consumer Reports* to find the latest recommendations. Search the archives of the *New York Times* or the *Boston Globe* online for articles you might have missed.

Feeling ambitious? Try The Great Courses. Want to build wealth for retirement? Try "The Art of Investing." Hooked on the British Baking show? Try the six lectures on "Baking Pastries & Desserts." Want to know more about your family history? There are 15 lectures on it in the series "Genealogy." Science, philosophy, travel—all these Great Courses with professors from top universities and experts in their fields are waiting for you to sign in.

Want to read a book to your grandchild? You can choose a book remotely by going to Tumblebooks. Choose a book, open it up, share the screen on Zoom, and give your best dramatic reading.

For more help on using these resources, see the FAQs page at <u>http://bournelibrary.org/Pages/</u><u>Index/182308/faqs</u>.

2020 Friends Scholarships Presented!

Two great students finished their first semester of college with wonderful grades! We are delighted to award the 2020 Friends Scholarships. Heather DiPaolo and Chris Crane presented checks for \$2,500 to Patrick Sweeney and Caitlin O'Connor. Both students also received gift-wrapped package of snacks to help them launch their second semester!



Patrick Sweeney, with his Mom & their dog



Caitlin O'Connor, with her Mom and their dog



Gift Baskets for Staff

In January, the Friends of the Library presented the library staff with a little pick-me-up that was greatly appreciated. It felt good to be the cheerleaders for our library with these overflowing baskets. Kathy Fox Alfano did the shopping and bought great snacks for all. It was quite a task to get everything to fit, even in those large baskets.

THANK YOU Best Regards Rebecca Dunca

Library Giving Day

"Library Giving Day started as an idea generated by the Seattle Public Library Foundation. The concept was to create a national day of giving that public libraries would rally around and that the public would embrace."

> -<u>https://librarygivingday.org/</u> "What is Library Giving Day")

Here at the Bourne Library, we are blessed that so many have already stepped up to donate to the Friends and the Library to provide programs, books, databases and other materials so needed during this time when we can't get out and about! So, first, a BIG thank-you for your donations! Secondly, if you are thinking about a donation to the library Friends, why not plan to do it on April 7 when we will be participating in Library Giving Day. You and millions of others will be flooding the websites of libraries across America to show just how important the library is to you. Watch for details on our website and, again, THANK YOU for all you do to keep the library current and open!



HELP WANTED:

Are you organized and interested in helping the number of Friends increase? We have an opening on the Board for **Membership Chair**. The duties include keeping an accurate list of the membership, recruiting new members, and assisting with the annual membership drive.

Is your head filled with ideas about raising funds to support the library? Maybe it is time to consider taking a leadership role as **Fundraising Chair** of the JBPL Friends. The main fundraiser is the book sale, but we have organized other events during COVID that have brought in dollars for the mission of our organization. The more creative, the better!

If either of these positions sound appealing to you, or you just want to know more, please reach out to us at: <u>JBPL-</u> <u>Friends@gmail.com</u>. If you have a friend who would like to join you, co-chairs are also encouraged; please throw your hat in the ring if you have any interest at all. Thank you!

Introducing Our Student Volunteer, Isabelle

Hello, everyone. My name is Isabelle Stone and I am a senior at Bourne High School. This year I got an amazing opportunity to be a volunteer for the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library.

The Bourne Public Library has always been a part of

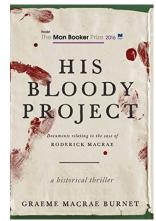
my life. I remember going to the library at the age of two for Library Group with Miss Kathy and enjoying many crafts and activities, most especially story time. Getting the joy to pick out what mystery book I wanted to read and taking out the many summer reading books.

I have been involved in a number of activities while I have been a student at Bourne High School. I am a part of National Honors Society, Student Council, Girls Varsity Lacrosse and the Girls Varsity Ice Hockey Team. My plan for after high school is studying physical therapy. In my year at Bourne High School, I have enjoyed volunteering in various groups including the empowerment center down at the base, the Bourne Historical Society, school events, and many other activities. Now I am very pleased that I can add the Jonathan Bourne Public Library to my list.

Book Review: Historical Thriller

His Bloody Project: Documents Relating to the Case of Roderick Macrae by Graeme Macrae Burnet is one of those books you never want to stop reading. The tale seems so real because of all of the detail, even though it is told in fiction. This book tells the

story of a 17-year-old boy by the name of Roderick Macrae, who has committed a triple homicide in the year 1869. The book consists of Roderick's life and the crimes he has committed leading up to the big crime, the triple homicide. Burnet uses fictional historical documents that makes the book so much



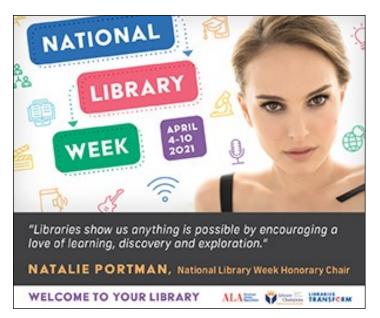
more intriguing. Overall I give this book a 4.6/5; it is truly one of my favorite books. As I was reading this book, it gave me chills. If you are a thriller fan like me, I definitely recommend this book.

-Isabelle Stone

Editor's Note: This book was a Man Booker Prize finalist in 2016.

New Scholarships Announced for High School Seniors

As you can see on page 6 of this newsletter, the first Friends of the Library scholarships for high school seniors who live year-round in Bourne were just awarded after the winners finished their first semester of college. If you are a high school senior, it is time to submit your application for the next round of scholarships. Details are all available online at the Friends of the Library website at <u>http://</u> <u>bournelibrary.org/Pages/Index/182460/friends-of-</u> <u>the-library</u>. So if you are a high school senior, or the parent of one, be sure to check it out. The deadline for applying is 5 p.m. on May 1.



A Verse to Raise Flowers for You and Funds for the Friends

- If you missed the sale last fall and didn't buy any bulbs at all, Fear not that your grounds will be abysmal!
- For once again our call goes out to fill your gardens large and small.
- Buy bulbs for summer to raise plants short and tall!
- Your Friends will thank you while your gardens hold everyone in thrall!

Click here to purchase bulbs.

<u>https://</u> groups.dutchmillbulbs.com/ shop/?affiliates=JBPLFriends

The Friends receive 50% of the sales of all bulbs.



Treasurer's Report

2021 Budget

The 2021 Friends Budget was adopted at the Annual Meeting in October 2020. The Budget and our status are shown below.

Friends Budget as of February 1, 2021

Expenses	Budget	Spent to Date	Remaining
Total	\$24,859	\$5,676	\$19,183

Expenses cover programs, scholarships, and other expenses for the Library.

Income	Budget	Raised To Date	To Be Raised
Total	\$25,100	\$426	\$24,674

Income covers dues, donations, fund raising and support from our brokerage savings account.

Please note that Annual Membership Dues are due on March 1.

Membership Dues

Lifetime (one time)	\$500
Family	\$50
Individual	\$30
Senior	\$20

Miss Browsing the Library Shelves?



The library now has several carts of books for adults and children, DVDs, large-print items, and more. The carts are located outside near the curbside table; in case of bad weather, they will be inside

the front door. Come and satisfy the urge to find a great new read!



An Easier Way to Give

We have added PayPal to our Friends page on the Library web-site. There are two buttons there, one for membership dues; the other is for donations.



We would be delighted to have you "click away"; and send what you can to support your Library.

2020-2021 Board

Heather DiPaolo, President Anne Elliott, Vice President Nancy Selchan, Secretary Pat Nemeth, Treasurer Kathy Fox Alfano, Fundraising Chris Crane, Book Sales Tina Prodouz, Membership Diane Ranney, Communications Eileen Mattingly, Communications