

Fall 2014 NEWS

COMING EVENTS

November 3 - 28: **Sixth Open Juried Art Show** in Library Gallery.

Entry information is available from Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or (413) 789-4814, and at www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends.htm.

November 14 (Friday): **Reception and Awards Ceremony** for Art Show Winners and Guests, in the Library Gallery and Community Room.

November 17 (Monday) - December 13 (Saturday): **Holiday Basket Display** on Library's First Floor. Participation packets are at the Circulation Desk.

December 13 at noon: **Holiday Basket Raffle**, at the Friends' Corner of the Circulation Desk. **Raffle tickets are on sale** throughout the Display period.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

October 2, November 6, December 4 (Thursdays) at 7 PM: Friends' Member and Board Meeting in the Peirce Conference Room at the left of the Library lobby. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

NEW OR RENEWED PASSES

Smith College Museum of Art

Holyoke Merry-Go-Round

THE FRIENDS THANK OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

*Agawam Cultural Council
Bridgeport Bindery
Budget Cabinet Sales
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Easthampton Savings Bank*

*G & L Tool Corp.
GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club
John's Trucking of Agawam, Inc.
Captain Jimmy's Restaurant
and Distillery
Mayor Richard Cohen*

*Parthenon Restaurant
James Sheehan
Squire's Bistro
and the anonymous donor of the
Kindle Paper White*



BOARD MEMBERS

President

Marcia Capuano

Vice President

Louis Russo

Treasurer

Jean Clark

Clerk

Kathleen Arnold

Directors

Sylvia Deliso

Mary Ghidoni

Luisa Guidi

Robert Kadis

Pamela Pudlo

Nancy Spagnoli

MEMBER MEETINGS

Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. in the Peirce Conference Room the first Thursday of each month, except July and August.

The Annual Meeting immediately follows February's regular monthly meeting.

BE IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS

Join us:

At a monthly meeting or at any of our events.

Email us:

friendsapl@yahoo.com

Visit us:

www.agawamlibrary.org/
about/friends/htm

Write us:

Friends of
the Agawam Public Library
P. O. Box 478
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

JOIN US

Membership at various levels is for a calendar year. Applications are available at the Friends' corner of the library's circulation desk and on the last page of this newsletter.

To Our Members, From Your Board:

The leaves are turning and pumpkins are everywhere. It looks as though this autumn will be a beautiful one. While leaves are still on the trees, let's take a moment to look back on our summer activities.

You helped sponsor the Library's first **Elementary School Reading Challenge**. The Challenge was to see how many books students from Agawam's Robinson, Granger, James Clark and Phelps schools would read over a 14-day period. A \$200 cash prize went to Robinson, whose students read the most books during this time, with \$100 going to each of the other participating schools. **Congratulations to all the students** who participated in this year's Challenge for a job well done!

Also over the summer, we purchased or renewed passes to the **Smith College Art Museum** and the **Holyoke Merry-Go-Round**. These and many other passes are available to Library card holders at the Information Desk.

Our **May book sale** generated nearly \$2,500 in funds for the Library. We'll have a sale again next spring, so save your books (adults' and children's), DVDs, etc., for us.

We **thank the anonymous donor** of a Kindle Paper White. Its raffle generated \$207, which came to the Friends to benefit the Library.

Kicking off our fall activities, another 10-week course for adults in **English as a Second Language** got underway at the Library on September 8. Friends' sponsorship makes this very popular series free to participants. For more information or to enroll, call Judy Clini at 789-1550 or send her an email at jclini@agawamlibrary.org.

Coming up is our **Sixth Annual Holiday Basket Display and Raffle**. Drop by the Circulation Desk at the Library for a packet that includes guidelines for preparing a basket and a receipt of donation for tax deduction purposes. **Raffle tickets** will be on sale throughout the Display period.

Come to your **Monthly Member/Board Meetings**, take in the **Art Show**, make a **Basket** or try your luck at the **Raffle**. Bring your children to the many wonderful **kids' programs** the Library provides.

And remember to **renew your tax-deductible membership** before the end of December.

On behalf of your Board, I wish you a wonderful autumn,
Luisa Guidi, NEWS Editor

LATE-BLOOMING PASSION: *One Man's Mid-Life Love Affair with Fine Art*

Six years ago, Robert Kadis produced the Friends' first Open Juried Art Show. Every year since, the Friends, under Bob's direction, have continued to sponsor this show as well as its outgrowth, the Photography show. Staging these shows takes a lot of thought, time and care on Bob's part. Wondering what fires Bob's enthusiasm to keep producing these shows, the NEWS sat down with him to hear his story.

NEWS: Bob, when and how did you become involved with the world of art?

BK: For years, my head was buried in computer software. My focus was on my businesses. Fortunately, my wife, Betty, had a strong bent for the arts, including theater, the fine arts, music. One year, hoping to spark my interest, she gave me for my birthday a very generous amount of money which I was to spend on a work of art. She took me to Trees Place on Cape Cod and turned me loose. With new eyes, I looked around for quite a while and finally settled on a painting that completely drew me in. The piece was an oil titled "Leaving Home Port," a seascape of a boat going out to sea. The title was apt: I was leaving a way of being that had excluded art and embarking on an adventure that thrills me to this day. That was in 1988, and I've been looking at art and loving it in many forms ever since. Betty died in 2007. She'd be pleased that her gift to me blossomed into the work I do today.

NEWS: Do you still have this painting, Bob? Have you since purchased others?

BK: Oh, my, yes. "Leaving Home Port" hangs in my office to this day. And I've purchased over 160 works, mostly oils, leaving me with very little blank wall space at home. But that hasn't slowed me down. I made another purchase just a few days ago.

NEWS: Have you done any painting yourself, or ever had the urge to?

BK: No, I don't and I haven't. My appreciation and understanding of art comes largely from attending artists' associations. I go to the meetings and talk to the artists. I learn what they're about. I watch what they do and listen to them discuss their work. It is a great learning experience.

NEWS: What prompted you to initiate the Open Juried Art Show?

BK: I'm an entrepreneur. I've started and run several businesses in the computer software field, so from personal experience, I know what it means to create something and put it out there in a business context. I see artists as entrepreneurs, too, whether they create works for fun or profit. I wanted to provide a forum for them to display their work and to receive recognition and even financial reward for their abilities, their artistry. The proceeds from these shows benefit the Friends and, in turn, our wonderful Library, so for me this is a marriage made in heaven.

NEWS: Clearly, Bob, you are passionate about the fine arts and artists. Yet, you and the Friends also sponsor an annual photography show. How did this come about?

BK: When I first started to publicize the art show, many people on my prospect list either knew photographers or did some work in photography themselves. A number of them asked for a photography show similar to the one I put together for art. So the photography show was essentially a response to community interest and has been every bit as successful as the art show.

NEWS: How are these shows similar and how might they be different?

BK: Both shows are open and juried. Each has two independent judges who view all submissions and decide which ones will become part of the show. Then, the judges start to compare works within each category. First, second and third places and honorable mentions are awarded within each category. After all admitted entries have been judged, the judges then select the Best in Show, which may be from any category. At the Awards Reception for the last show, which was a photography show, we opened up to attending photographers the chance to elect a Photographers' Choice. This proved very popular, so we'll continue this practice in both shows.

As for the difference between the shows? Really, it is only one of the medium. The fine artist and photographer alike need to demonstrate significant sensitivity to color, balance, technique and all the other elements that make up a work of quality.

NEWS: The Friends' next Open Juried Fine Art Show - the Sixth - is scheduled for November, and the Fifth Open Juried Photography Show is scheduled for February of next year. Thank you for everything you do, Bob, to make these shows successful.

BK: My pleasure.

You Are Invited to Join the Friends of the Agawam Library

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Per Calendar Year; Tax Deductible)

___ Individual \$15 a year

___ Family \$20 per year

___ Senior Citizen (65 & over) \$10 per year

___ Organization/Business \$50 per year

___ New Member

___ Renewing Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Tel. # _____

Please mail your completed application and check to:

Friends of the Agawam Public Library

P. O. Box 478

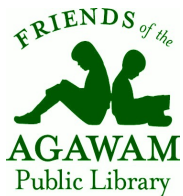
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478

or drop them off at the Circulation Desk when you are next in the library.

In brief, the purpose of the Friends is to benefit the Agawam Public Library and the public it serves by promoting interest in Library activities and by raising funds for various Library programs and requirements.

Friends of the Agawam Public Library
P. O. Box 478
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478

TO:



Remember a loved one. Honor a special friend. Give a gift that will last forever with a memorial donation in his/her name to the Friends of the Agawam Public Library.