



Meet Our Eldredge Public Library Board of Trustees



(First row, L to R): Mary Olmsted, Susan Eldredge, Alice Popkin, Stephanie Bartlett, Carol Odell, Phyllis Freeman, Dave Wister, and Peter Saunders; (Second row) Joe Gagliano, Dick Siewert, Dick Evans, Alan Sachtleben, and Bill Plumer; missing: Bruce Wood.

Did you know that more than 160 people volunteer at the Eldredge? The entire paid staff is only four full time employees and nine part-timers! The volunteers include the Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, those who serve at the desk, Hospitality Committee, book menders, shelvers, and more! Collectively they provide a large part of the effort it takes to achieve and maintain the Library's four-star rating. Together with the staff, the volunteers provide much of the "public face" of the Library.

But what do the Trustees do?

In a nutshell, the Trustees have the overall responsibility to oversee the control and management of the Library. The Board meets monthly, and among its principal duties are conducting the operating fund and endowment fund-raising activities; overseeing the Library's investments; preparing or adopting policies to govern the Library's activities; deliberating over the annual budget for submission to the Town; coordinating with the Friends of the Library; overseeing building and grounds matters, community outreach (including preparing a series

of videos on various aspects of the Library), and appointing the Library's Director.

The Board currently has 13 members. They are: Dick Evans, President; Phyllis Freeman, Vice President; Peter Saunders, Treasurer; Alan Sachtleben, Assistant Treasurer; Stephanie Bartlett, Clerk; Susan Eldredge; Joe Gagliano; Carol Odell; Mary Olmsted; Bill Plumer; Alice Popkin; Dick Siewert; and Bruce Wood. Alice Popkin is the immediate past president; Bruce Wood and Alan Sachtleben were recently elected to the Board. Dave Wister has just retired.

The members are elected by the Board to five-year terms. The Board selects its officers. Excepting the officers, every Trustee chairs and/or serves on at least one of nine standing or ad hoc committees, which are: Administration & Personnel, Audit, Building & Grounds, Community Relations, Development, Investment Advisory, Legal, Long Range Planning, and Nominating.

Each Trustee welcomes your comments and suggestions concerning the operation of the Jewel of Chatham ~ our Eldredge Public Library.

Dick Evans, President, Board of Trustees

FROM THE FEPL PRESIDENT'S DESK

Come to Chatham !

According to a recent article in *The Cape Cod Times*, the Pew Research Center plans to study the relevance of public libraries and how their role is changing in the digital age. The research is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the tune of \$1.4 million and will take three years. I hope they come to Chatham! The response to the EPL's One Town One Book program during which we all either read or re-read Nathaniel Philbrick's *Mayflower* certainly indicates that Chathamites find their public library to be relevant and important in their lives.

Dick Evans, President of EPL's Board of Trustees, in his letter asking support for the Library's annual fund, eloquently expressed what we all know to be true: "The Eldredge Public Library...is a gathering spot for the community, a connection to the world beyond, and a cornerstone of culture and education." He goes on to list the ways in which the public library benefits us all: books, journals and media available for loan; free computer access; preschool programs which not only get kids ready to learn to read, but also provide social opportunities for moms; after-school programs for young adults; the Learning Series; and special events providing the community with lifelong learning experiences. The list goes on and on.

So, Pew Research folk, come to Chatham! We'll be ready to show off what many regard as Chatham's jewel: The Eldredge Public Library. Of course, we'll look forward to their findings country wide. I'm voting for relevance and the



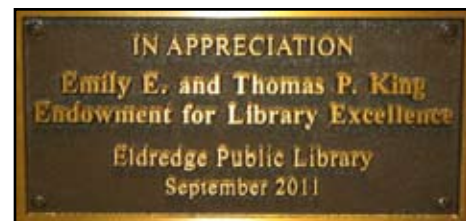
public library's continuing ability to meet users changing needs.

Barbara Gibson
President
Friends of the Eldredge Public Library

King Endowment

The Trustees of the Eldredge Public Library are pleased to announce that the Library has received a major gift, thanks to the generosity of Emily E. King and her late husband, Thomas P. King.

The King Endowment was created to support and further the excellence of the Library. It will be used to recognize Library employees for their creativity, loyalty, and excellent performance in Library service; to promote Library excellence in the form of conferences, bonuses, staff development, research, and training; and for the purchase of innovative materials or equipment not otherwise budgeted. We salute the Kings for their very generous contribution to the excellence at the Eldredge, and we are very grateful for their support.



BOOK & AUTHOR EVENT

Sponsored by Friends of the Eldredge Public Library

Refreshments served at 2:30 pm

Tuesday, January 17 at 3:00 pm

Kerry Brown and Chris Kelly
The Lost Tavern, A Pirate's Odyssey

Beth Holden, Books & Authors

A Stocking Full of Home-Grown Poems

A Tree? What Fir?

On our first Yule together, my true love said to me,
 "We have each other; let's forget about the tree."
 On our third Yule together, my husband said to me,
 "He's just a baby, but a kid should have a tree."
 On our fifth Yule together, their father said to me,
 "They're holy terrors; put the playpen 'round the tree!"
 On our seventh Yule together, our family of four
 Bought a potted yew in sunny Singapore.
 On our eighth Yule together, we dragged it in the house,
 But our Christmas tree'd been savaged by a mouse.
 On our ninth Yule together, our kids said, "Please, oh please,
 Our friends all have these nifty plastic trees."
 On our tenth Yule together, we followed every rule,
 With branches A B C, like the other kids at school.
 On our 11th Yule together, we gaily sallied forth
 And bought a tree they'd killed for us up north.
 On our 12th Yule together, with needles on the floor,
 I cried, "Fake fir for us again, forevermore!"

Holly Whiting

Nantucket Sound, Cape Cod

Riding the back of a brisk sou'west breeze, the
 fog creeps softly in, spreading a dull, gray blanket
 over the waters of Nantucket Sound.

I tramp thru a landscape of rolling, sandy
 hummock. Solitary, stunted evergreens, their
 shoulders hunched against the wind, dot the
 sandy dunes around me.

Only the cries of terns and plovers,
 nesting safely in their secure habitats,
 disturb the profound stillness of a landscape
 enshrouded in mist and swirling fog.

Fog and mist feed sparse
 patches of green vegetation and bring
 to bloom red and white sea-roses
 -- tints of color in this tawny world.

As I reach the lighthouse which sits alone
 on a narrow neck of land, I sense
 my spirits uplifted, nourished by fog,
 and wind, and sea on this drear day.

G L Snider

Untitled

through a broken cloud
 reflecting on dark waters
 the golden Light pours
 streaming into the ocean
 glistening the rising waves

Dorothy Healy

Help Wanted

What a mess! What a mess!
 Santa Claus is in distress!
 With Mrs. Claus in bed with flu,
 The elves just don't know what to do.
 They've only finished half his list
 And Santa Claus is in a twist
 The dreams of little girls and boys
 Lie round him in unfinished toys.
 What to do? What to do?
 Santa Claus is in a stew!
 Christmas Eve's three days away,
 Who will help him load his sleigh?
 Then Rudolph with his nose so bright
 Comes once again to shed some light.
 "Relax, old man! I know who'll do it.
 "I'll go and bring back Martha Stewart!"

Maris Childs



Late Fall on the Oyster River

I caught this morning
 a new day adawning
 sun peeping above the world's rim
 mists whirling, swirling like dervishes
 on the calm surface of the water
 boats riding motionless
 at their moorings
 crows caw caw cawing
 all nature stirring
 at the breaking
 of the day.

G L Snider

Watching the Storm

I watched as the morning sun reached its highest point.
 Suddenly, the skies began to darken and the thunder began to roll.
 Raindrops began to beat on the windowsill as in a hail storm.
 The skies were lit by thunder bolts, but then,
 Just as suddenly, the room started to brighten,
 And the raindrops no longer beat on the windowpane.
 The sun came back in a blaze of glory,
 Rendering the raindrops on the window into hundreds of diamonds.

Robert N. Forgeron

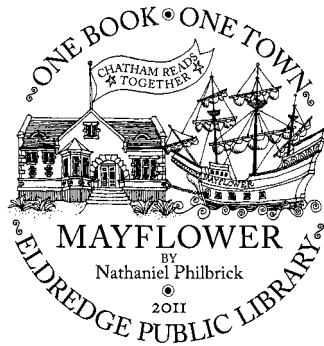
Mayflower—That Ship Really Sailed!

One Book, One Town wrapped up on November 6 with a tasty Community Feast at the Library. The common thread of conversation was how much they had enjoyed the previous seven weeks. There was, however, no agreement over which of the 23 programs that were presented was the best. Each person had his or her own favorite!

The best-attended were the appearances of authors Nathaniel Philbrick and Geraldine Brooks, who both drew capacity crowds of nearly 200 people. My favorite moment: as I introduced Mr. Philbrick, I asked how many in the crowd had read *Mayflower*. When almost every hand shot up, I knew right then that our Community Read was a success!

Most of all, I'd like to thank the community for their participation in One Book, One Town. I think they enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed presenting it. I'd also like to thank our many authors, speakers, and presenters, who taught us a great deal as they entertained us. And finally I want to thank our community sponsors. Their contributions allowed us to really go all out! If you run across them any of them in the course of your day, please tell them how much you appreciate their participation. They are:

Agway of Cape Cod, Chatham
 Chatham-Harwich Newcomers Club
 Chatham Wayside Inn
 Eldredge and Lumpkin Insurance
 Eldredge Library Trustees
 Friends of the Eldredge Public Library
 Warren and Beth Fletcher
 Josephine Ives
 Rotary Club of Chatham
 Stop & Shop
 Malcolm Ward
 Women's Club of Chatham



A Different Kind of Love Story

Last summer I received a call from former Chathamite Ron Dow, who wanted to send us a book for the Library's collection. This was not an unusual request, but as I listened to the story behind the book I realized that this was, indeed, a unique tale.

He started off by telling me about his late wife, Katy, and a private habit of hers: "For several years, I was aware that she was writing poetry in response to the things which moved and inspired her. She would compose them and then tuck them away in one of her personal drawers as private expressions of her feelings. I respected that privacy, so I never saw them nor knew the character of their content."

Upon her death two years ago the minister asked Ron if he would like anyone to say a few words at the service. He thought there would be no better eulogy than her own words, and for the first time, her handwritten words were brought to light. Because of the great love between her and her two grandsons, they were chosen to each read three of her poems.

Ron relates, "The quality of her effort at once became apparent. I felt her work was too important to consign to the drawer from which it had come, and so I had it published in book form. Copies went to family and friends, who each expressed wonder at her work. As a consequence, I thought that the work deserved broader appreciation and so, among other efforts, sent a copy to the Library of Congress for their consideration.

Understandably, the tenor of the response was that, while I might submit the book to them for their consideration, I had to realize that each year they receive many submissions. The implication was that the chance of acceptance was very slim. Nevertheless, I sent a copy to them. Within a week of them receiving the book, I received notice that it had been accepted, indicating an implicit appreciation of its worth.

Now, your acceptance of *Katy's Poems* by Kathleen Dow into the Eldredge Library collection completes a circle of those for whom she expressed thoughts and emotions in a manner which few of us can. Thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon my wife by accepting *Katy's Poems*; I am sure it is an honor she would have treasured because of her love of Chatham."

Now Katy's poems are available to those who remember her, and those still waiting to meet her. Her observances of life on the Cape, in the garden, the glories of nature and the joys of grandchildren speak to us all. I especially identified with the humorous "Riverbay Maze," about the trials of finding one's destination therein, and the difficulties of finding one's way out again!

In the end, though, the book is a love story: the story of a husband who gave his wife the privacy she needed to nurture her creativity, and then believed in her talent so much that he had to share her poems with the world.

BOOK-TO-FILM

Discussion Group

Read the book, then come to the Library on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 2:00 to watch the movie inspired by the book! The calendar of upcoming titles is available at the Library desk and on our website at www.eldredgelibrary.org



Irene Gillies, Library Director



Florence Seldin reads Proclamation from Selectmen at opening program



Plimoth Plantation Wompanoag works with kids



Pumpkin Pilgrims in the Park



Plimoth Plantation pilgrim speaks to kids



Nathaniel Philbrick speaks



Gravestone Girl demonstrates



Tim Wood aboard our Mayflower



Bench warming during Samuel Hawes Park walk



Philbrick aboard our Mayflower



CALLING ALL CHATHAM POETS

Read Your Poems on First Night

7:00 pm December 31, 2011
Forgeron Room

Sign up to read one of your own original poems as part of Chatham's First Night Celebration. This special event is sponsored by Friends of the Eldredge Public Library.

You must register in advance: a sign-up sheet will be available at the circulation desk December 1-18. You will be limited to five minutes. We ask that your reading be appropriate to a family audience and a night of celebration.

Because of time constraints, readers may be limited to the first ten poets to register.

Listeners are most welcome!



Winter is the season in which people
try to keep the house as warm
as it was in the summer,
when they complained about the heat.

- Author Unknown

FICTION WRITERS' GROUP

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
10:00 am ~ Noon

This fiction writers group meets every other Wednesday at the Eldredge Public Library in the Friends Room. The group is limited to eight members and each are required to have access to email. Stories are exchanged through email and members meet biweekly to discuss.

YOUTH SERVICES NEWS

A Good Read

Though I'm confident at this very moment while reading this newsletter you are in the midst of decorating your home, planning a meal, baking cookies, organizing your calendar, wrapping gifts or writing holiday cards, I'm going to add one more task to your "to do" list. Please stop by the Library any time after December 1st to pick up a copy of Youth Services' annual "Seasons Readings." Take a look at our gift-giving suggestions, and set aside a few moments to browse through our basket of books. And don't hesitate to ask for assistance with those challenging individuals on your list. We have ideas for all ages, the eager readers, and the reluctant ones just waiting to be hooked by a good read!

Tammy DePasquale, Youth Services Librarian

Winter Sunday Programs at the Eldredge

Come in from the cold and join Friends at some interesting events lined up for you at your Library.



January 15

Ed Fouhy will talk about Walter Cronkite.

January 29

Kevin Comick, Director of "Seashore Point," will speak about senior facilities available on Cape Cod and how much each has to offer.

February 5

Cindy Knight presents "Art in Bloom," a talk about flowers and her experiences exhibiting in flower shows.

February 19

Mahala Bishop, author of *Sunshine and Shadow*, will speak about her battle with Bipolar Disorder. Copies of her book will be available for sale.

All programs begin at 2 p.m., with refreshments at 1:30

Joann Creedon, Program Coordinator

Book Deals for the Holidays

The next time you are in town, stop by the Eldredge and check out the Friends' Ongoing Book Sale, at the Library's lower level. Most of our books are in new or "pristine" condition and are tagged at one or two dollars. Lots of titles, including many new large-print and children's books, are available. The Friends' book sale continues to provide an outstanding service for Library patrons and visitors, as well as a significant source of income for Friends' projects.

Drop in and dip into our tempting displays – and help us make room for the hundreds of choice volumes that are waiting for space on the book-room shelves. Browse around in our "bookshop," pay for your selections at the Circulation Desk upstairs, and take home some "keepers" at rock-bottom prices, benefitting you AND your Library!

Penny Keith, Book Sale Coordinator

Friends Book Club

The Book Club meets to discuss books once a month from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the Friends room in the lower level at the Library. **Everyone is welcome!** If you have any questions, please call Linda Nixon at 508-945-2094.

November 29

A Moveable Feast
Ernest Hemingway
Bonnie Hessler, Leader

December 13

Hotel du Lac
Anita Brookner
Sheila Marx, Leader

January 31

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Rebecca Skloot
Pat McKinley, Leader

February 28

My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You
Louisa Young
Ginger Plexico, Leader

March 27

The Hare with Amber Eyes
Edmund de Waal
Barbara Blanchard, Leader



The Friends Respond !

The 2011-2012 Friends of the EPL Membership Drive kicked off in September. We are seeing a gratifying early response as many new members join those who have been long time Friends. Generous financial support provides the "extras" that keep our Library at the forefront. The volunteers who provide time and effort are key to the smooth operation we all enjoy.

Thank you to all who have responded. If you have not yet done so, please consider completing the membership form on this page and joining the Friends!

Bob Monroe & Dan McPhee
Friends' Membership Chairs



Shop at the Eldredge

Find a perfect gift at our Ongoing Book Sale, including our bargain "a buck a bag"

T-Shirts, Caps and Bags with the Library logo make great gifts too

Count Me As A Friend !

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Seasonal Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Start _____ Stop _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

New Membership Renewal

Here's My
Annual Membership Donation

Individual \$10 Sponsor \$75
 Family \$25 Patron \$100
 Supporting \$50 other _____

Matching Gift from _____

I would like to volunteer

my talents to help the Friends of the Eldredge Public Library. Please check one or more:

- Friends Programs / Special Events
- Hospitality / Flowers
- Mailings
- Front Desk
- Shelving Books
- Organize Book Shelves
- Library Displays
- Deliveries to Housebound

Please complete this form and make checks payable to Friends of EPL

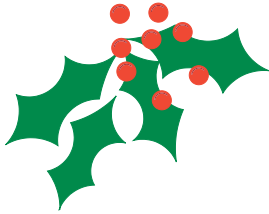
Mail to:

Membership
Friends of the Eldredge Public Library, Inc.
PO Box 70
Chatham MA 02633

You can also join on-line at
www.eldredgelibrary.org

FEPL, Inc. is an IRS approved,
tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization

Thank You for Your Membership



Library Hours

10–5 Monday
 Wednesday
 Friday
 Saturday
 1–9 Tuesday
 Thursday

Genealogy Dept. Hours

1–5 Tuesday
 Thursday
 Saturday



Looking Back ...



Once again our thanks to Kassie Foss for allowing us to use her marvelous drawings in Tidings.

www.eldredgelibrary.org

Sign up on our website to receive Library news and information electronically. You can also see *Tidings* on-line – in living color – wherever you are!



WRITERS' GROUPS

CHATHAM WRITERS @ 02633

This group meets in the Friends' Room on Mondays from 10:30 am 'till noon to explore different writing genres. Members share their work with the group and receive guidance and feedback. Each year the group publishes an anthology of their work. If you would like to join, call Jeff Hahner at 508-945-9962.

THE MEMOIR GROUP

Meets every Friday from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Friends' Room. Everyone can write about their own experiences, but do you need tips to make them interesting reading? If so, call Mal Ward at 508-945-4284.

Read for Life!

SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions for *Tidings* or would be willing to help with editing, please contact Holly Whiting, 508-945-4246 or email hoken@earthlink.net

Deadline for *Spring Tidings* copy is January 27, 2012