

Speaking Volumes

Friends of Maine Libraries Opposes TABOR – Bill Sullivan

The *Friends of Maine Libraries* is a state-wide organization dedicated to improving library services in Maine by working through local Friends groups. Like the local groups it is all-volunteer and receives no local, state or federal tax support. We have joined the growing coalition of associations who oppose the ‘Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights’ (TABOR) appearing on the ballot in Maine this November.

Under TABOR local and state governments would be forced to limit their spending to the change in consumer price index (CPI), adjusted by population change. The CPI is the measure of how much the cost of a typical household’s ‘market basket’ increases from year to year. Governments, however, spend most of their budgets on payroll and ever-higher health costs, and on energy and technology, so under the low allowances allowed by the CPI, even those towns offering no additional services would find themselves unable to keep up with inflation. Towns in high growth areas, mostly Southern Maine, are less affected by TABOR because their population increase adjusts their spending cap upward.

The expenditure ceiling is lower in places with no growth, or (worst TABOR case of all) in towns with a falling population. The rigid limits on public spending create a special problem for libraries. When the city or town budget just isn’t enough, it is the ‘essential’ services that will still have to be funded. In the municipal pecking order, libraries typically rank behind police, fire, health services, road repair and other protection and safety needs.

Libraries are used to dealing with tight town budgets – they can usually find local support to persuade town officials to allow the relatively small amounts they need. Under TABOR, however, the spending cap cannot be raised without the positive vote of 2/3 of the governing body, i.e. a city council or board of selectmen, or in some places, a town meeting. If that ‘supermajority’ votes for an exception, the voters still have to approve the change at a regular or special election. At the state level, the two-thirds rule means that the state can make no

exceptions whatever to the cap, no matter how urgent the problem, if the change is opposed by just 12 members of the Maine Senate: one third of that 35-member chamber.

The only state with experience with the type of cap proposed for Maine is Colorado, which has now suspended the program indefinitely after 13 years of steadily worsening state services. Unfortunately for Maine, the TABOR formula on the ballot this fall is even more stringent than Colorado’s. Furthermore, under Maine law, the formula cannot be modified – it must be presented to the voters exactly as written by those who prepared the petition question. We all want lower taxes, but we should get there through the give and take of the well-understood budgeting process, not with our hands tied and our public policy determined by 33% of those we elect to office.

Bill Sullivan is currently President of the Friends of Maine Libraries and is Treasurer of the Friends of the Bangor Public Library.

**NEW HOURS START SEPTEMBER 4TH
Monday-Thursday 9-8, Friday, Saturday 9-5**

September Project

Libraries all across America will be giving their communities an opportunity to investigate and discuss the impact that 9/11 has had on our country. On September 11th and 12th, programs have been scheduled at the Bangor Library which will consider such topics as our national security versus our freedoms, how to deal with the stresses we have all experienced, and “Has the News Changed since 9/11?”

September Art Exhibits:

**Hammond Street Seniors
Alan Harzewski**

October Art Exhibits:

**VSA Arts
Page Eastman
Cheryl Beitzell**



September Project Calendar

Sept 11

1PM Dr. Richard Powell, Political Science Professor, UMO, chairs a panel of area media representatives discussing “Has Our News Changed Since 9/11?”

4PM A Panel from the Peace & Justice Center leads a round table discussion, “Five Years After 9/11, Are We More Secure?”

6:30PM Dr. Amy Fried, Political Science Professor, UMO, speaks on “The Changing Meaning of Patriotism”

Sept 12

6PM “The Balance Between Security and Freedom.” A representative of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and other guests will discuss this delicate balance.

7PM Dr. Ginny Holmes & Lois Dvorak, RNC, present “Helping Our Children with the Turmoil in Today’s World”

Gift Books

Given in memory of David Bishop by
Jean F. Roberts

The House

A Corner in the Marais

and given by Jim and Carolyn Mahon

The Most Beautiful Country Town of

England

Islanders

and given by Nancy Wight

Stravinsky

Double Lives

And given by Dr. Ashley Gray and

Adelaide Gray

Washington's Spies

Given in memory of David Rosenblatt
by Norman Minsky

Einstein's 1912 Manuscript on the Spe-

cial Theory of Relativity

Given in memory of Jean M. London

Let Me Finish

Given in memory of Robert Gene

Geagan

The Mad Dog Hall of Fame



Given by the Bangor Daily News
Knitted Babes

Given in memory of Leon Bouchard by

Caroline Banasiak & W. Maxine Graves

Cross Stitch Antique Style Samplers

If you wish to give a book, or make a donation to the Library,
call 947-8336 for information.

Given in memory of Jerry Lee Williams by Norman
Minsky

For the Love of Music

Given in memory of Harvard Reynolds by Dorothy and
George Thomas

Voyage of the Turtle

And given by the Portland Regional Chamber

Crows

And given by Maurine Hannaford

The Land Gone Lonesome

Given in memory of Robert Rostrup with
love from his Postal Family at Eastern
Maine Processing and

Distribution

Warring States

Given in memory of his beloved aunt, Jane
Saxl, by Fred Wilhelm

The Rescue

Given in memory of Gerald Thompson by
Henry and Dorothy Marsh

Treehouse Chronicles

Given in memory of Corinne Sargent by
Norman Minsky

Secrets of the Savanna

And given by Charlotte, Sylvia & Lloyd

Foster

Espresso Tales

Given in memory of Jeem Trowbridge by
Dana and Robinson Gourley, Jr. &
Robinson Gourley, Sr.

The Din in the Head

A Concise History of Western Music

Candidates Night at the Library

The Bangor Public Library is hosting its annual Candidates Forum on Thursday Oct 19 in the Library's Lecture Hall. The Forum for School Committee Candidates will be held from 5:00 to 6:00PM. The Forum for City Council Candidates will be held from 6:30 to 7:30PM.

As we all know, local elections will directly impact on our lives. The Library's Candidates' Forum is an ideal time to ask questions and get answers from this year's candidates.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.



Discussing the Middle East

We'll give you some idea how animated the discussions were during the recent Maine Humanities' Series on the Middle East. Participants continued one dialogue on the Library's front steps well after the BPL's closing time. Realizing the community's real desire to continue the conversation, we have invited Dr. Alex Grab, University of Maine at Orono, to continue to lead discussions on the 4th Monday of each month, at 6:30PM starting Sept 25. The first reading is the July/August 2006 Atlantic Magazine.

September/October Calendar

September 9 2PM Meet Harriet Price & Gerald Talbot, authors of Maine's Visible Black History

September 11 1PM "Has the News Changed Since 9/11" with Dr. Richard Powell & Area Media Representatives

September 11 4PM The Peace & Justice Center leads a roundtable discussion, "Five Years After 9/11, Are We More Secure?"

September 11 6:30PM "The Changing Meaning of Patriotism" with Dr. Amy Fried

Sept 12 6PM Security versus Freedom with MCLU & guests, discussion follows.

September 12 7PM Dr. Ginny Holmes & Lois Dvorak, R.N.C. "Helping Children Cope with the Turmoil of Today's World"

September 16 2PM Meet David Richards, author of Poland Spring

September 25 6:30 Middle East Discussion—See above.

October 5 6:30PM VSA Art Exhibit Opening-Lecture Hall

October 7 2PM Mystery Writers Panel with Kathy Lynn Emerson, Tess Gerritsen, Kate Flora and Sarah Graves.

October 19 5-7:30PM Candidates' Night—Lecture Hall

October 21 Meet John McDonald author of Down the Road a Piece

The Library will be closed
Monday Sept 4, Labor Day
& Monday October 9,
Columbus Day

Autumn Children's & Teens' Programs

MORNING BREAK WITH THE LIBRARIAN

One half hour of stories & fun -Children ages 2-5

Monday 10AM- Sept 18-Dec 4

GOODY GANG

Forty-five minutes of stories, songs, videos, crafts, games & a goody! Bring a friend! Grades K-2

Monday 3:30PM or Friday 10AM

Sept 18- Dec 8

STORY/CRAFT

Stories and crafts for 4 & 5 year-olds who do not need parental supervision.

Tuesday 9:30AM Sept 19-Dec 5

CHAPTER CHUMS

Read great books, enjoy games, & crafts, 3rd-4th grade

Tuesday 4PM Sept 19-Dec 5 Registration required

MOTHER GOOSE TIME

Stories, songs & finger plays for babies up to 24 mos.

Wednesday 9:15 Sept 20-Dec 6

TINY TOT TIME

Games, songs, stories and finger plays for 2-4 year olds with a participating adult.

Wednesday or Thursday 10:30AM

Sept 20-Dec 7

FRIDAY FORAGERS

Six Friday afternoons of reading, discussion & special activities for 5th & 6th graders. Please register.

Friday 3:30PM Sept 22-Dec 8

ABC KIDS

Games, stories & crafts for children ages 3-6

Saturday 11AM Sept 23-Dec 9

YOU BE THE JUDGE*

Once a month, from October 2006 to April, 2007, Teens, Grades 6-12, will meet with mentors from the legal community to discuss actual cases from *They Broke the Law* by Thomas A. Jacobs. If you are interested in law, law enforcement or forensic sciences sign up now. Space is limited to 30 teens. If you are an adult who works with the legal community, will you share your expertise with area teens?

Call Christine in the Children's Department for more information.

*Presented through the generosity of the Bangor Area Rotary Club



**Going Back to School?
Don't forget your Library card &
Online Resources!**

From the Bangor Room...

The Local History~Special Collections Department has received several marvelous donations this summer.

A book entitled, [A Different Perspective German POW's in Bangor and Other Maine Places](#), was donated by its author, Edward A. Matheson. Patrons must ask for this item, as it will be housed in the non-circulating stacks.

Norman Minsky has given items from the Widows, Orphans, & Wounded Soldiers of Israel Fund established by the late Bessie Motiuk (1887-1977). This collection includes a biographical sketch, diplomatic correspondence, bank statements & records of her work on behalf of many victims of the first Arab-Israeli War.

Bernadette Gaspar donated materials from the now-defunct Bangor Lionettes organization. We have 1980's & 1990's club records, a constitution, photos & a scrapbook.

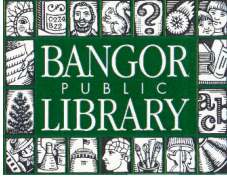
Jordan S. Alpert gave a collection of items from the Cohen family of Bangor on behalf of the estate of Pauline Cohen. The materials include a framed copy of Nathan Cohen's naturalization record from Penobscot County dated 23rd, April, 1891, when this Russian immigrant officially became a citizen of this country. This collection includes many Cohen family photographs that date from the early 20th century.

Terry Laurendine of Fredericksburg, Texas has donated an album and pictures belonging to her late father, Colonel Edward Tindall. This gentleman was Commanding Officer at Dow Field from August 1945 through December 1946. His daughter enthusiastically shares that "Dow was one of his favorite assignments!"

**The Library has WiFi...
Check it out!**

The Bangor Public Library thanks all generous donors who have given these materials to our institution, so that the public may have access to these records. The addition of such unique and historical gifts to our collection, ensures that our Library may continue to provide our patrons with a substantial reference and resource center. Should anyone wish to make a similar donation, please contact William Cook in the Bangor Room at (207) 947-8336, extension 103. Thank you again to all who gave these gifts to our community.





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Bangor, Maine 04401

THE BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

New Regular Hours Begin September 5

Monday– Thursday 9-8
Friday & Saturday 9-5
Sunday Closed

145 Harlow St
Bangor, Maine 04401
Phone: 947-8336

*Something for Everybody
@ your Library*

We're on the Web!
www.bpl.lib.me.us/

Meet the Authors This Fall...

Including, a special panel of Mystery Writers!!!



We have a wonderful slate of authors coming to the Library this fall. On **Saturday, Sept 9**, meet **Harriet Price & Gerald Talbot**, authors of Maine's Visible Black History. This highly anticipated, much praised chronicle of Maine and the country's black citizens preserves a part of significant story that was in danger of being lost.

On **Saturday, Sept 16**, author David Richards brings us his book Poland Spring: A Tale of the Gilded Age. It tells the story of a time when Poland Spring meant a great deal more to people than a green-labeled bottle of water.

**Look who's coming
to the Library this fall!**

October 7th brings Bangor's readers a special treat. Especially if you enjoy a mystery. Four of New England's best known mystery writers will be visiting the Bangor Library. **Kathy Lynn Emerson** brings us the latest in her Diana Spaulding series, Fatal As a Fallen Woman. While Ms. Emerson gives us another of her daring Victorian lady reporter adventures, **Kate Flora** offers us Stalking Death, the latest in her Thea Kozak series. **Tess Geritsen**, nationally known for her bone-chilling medical mysteries, introduces us to her latest, Mephisto Club, while **Sarah Graves**, who has put Eastport on the mystery map with her downeast whodunnits, will bring us Nail Biter, the latest in her home repair Homicide series. So if you enjoy reading mysteries, ... or if you ever thought about writing one, here is your chance to meet and talk with this panel of some of the most successful and prolific ladies in the business!

One thing we have to accept is that October leads to November, and we all know what that means. What better time of year is there to have a visit from a man who knows all there is to know about laughing, despite the approach of a Maine winter. Columnist and radio personality **John McDonald**, author of Down the Road a Piece, comes to the Library on **Saturday October 21 at 2PM**, to bring this anthology of Maine humor to our rescue.

A Book Discussion Group, Book Buddies, is inviting new members to attend their 3rd Thursday of every month meetings, 6:30-8:00PM.
Fall selections:
Sept 21– Years of Rice & Salt by Kim Stanley
October 19– Girl Interrupted by Susanne Kaysen
November 16– The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell
Contact Christy at the Reference Desk for more information