

nts 4 firefighters

Whether a firefighter, on assignment to Boston Police Department, is embroiled in a seemingly random act of road rage, which has fatal and far-reaching consequences. The evening ended with an inventive piece of fiction from Neil O'Hara, describing a hedge fund manager's ingenious, if shocking plans to mitigate his funds losses after a terrorist attack blocks the Panama Canal.

Cotoni, a third generation firefighter, has six years of experience as a call firefighter and holds an associate's degree in liberal arts. Whalen, a third generation firefighter, has six years of experience as a call firefighter and holds an associate's degree in life science. O'Donnell, also has a history of firefighting in his family, and is also working on an associate's degree at Middlesex Community College in fire science.

When Town Meeting approved the fiscal 2007 budget in March, voters also approved an increased budget for the fire department, allowing four firefighters to be added to the force.

Increasing calls, including medical calls, led Lincoln Fire Chief Arthur Cotoni to ask for the additional staffing. Now, the department is stretched then if they receive more than one call at a time; four firefighters are on shift during the day Monday through Thursday, while three firefighters are on shift around the clock Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Although the department has a list of call firefighters, many held other jobs and were not available to respond in emergency situations.

"That program seems to be working in at least one aspect," Selectman Taylor said.

The staffing increase adds a firefighter to each shift, and puts the department in a better position in case two calls for assistance come in at the same time.

Police to hold safety belt pledge drive June 21

On June 21 from 8 to 9 a.m. the Lincoln Police will sponsor a Safety Belt Pledge Drive at the Lincoln Transfer Station on North Great Road. The names of those signing a pledge card to wear their safety belt for the next two weeks will be entered in a raffle to win a \$50 gift certificate to Stonegate Gardens. The gift certificate was donated by Stonegate Gardens. With only 65 percent of drivers and front seat passengers statewide using safety belts in 2004, well below the national average of 85 percent — the Lincoln Police Department is working to increase safety belt use in town.

This educational effort is part of the state Governor's Highway Safety Bureau's Click It or Ticket Campaign. GHSB is funding 270 police departments for participation in safety

belt enforcement activities. Using safety belts consistently and correctly reduces the chance of serious injury or death by 50 to 70 percent. Additionally, Massachusetts' communities with higher safety belt use rates have lower rates of crash-related injuries.

"Wearing a safety belt can be habit forming," said Police Chief Kevin A. Mooney. "Once we get in the habit, we continue to wear them. By increasing the number of people wearing safety belts, we will save lives and prevent injuries."

The state safety belt law requires all occupants to be properly restrained when riding in a private passenger vehicle. Anyone not belted risks a \$25 fine. In addition, drivers can be fined for any passenger under 16 who is not belted.

Showing their 'Write Stuff'

By Geoff Moore
Correspondent

On June 8, 13 local writers, collectively known as the Lincoln Public Library "Write Stuff Group," invited friends and relatives to a public sampling of the fruits of their writing labor.

On what was an appropriate, if clichéd, "dark and stormy night," 26 people gathered in the wood-paneled Tarbell Room to hear five of the writers read works ranging from memoir to mystery.

The depth of these talents was to the fore at the first public reading of the group as Henry Haroian read movingly from the final chapter of his recently completed memoir. In it he describes his family's harrowing and fortunate escape from the Armenian Genocide that began in 1914 and their new life filled with hope and growth in the United States.

Dancing Candles, a thriller by Kathy Deickler and set in an old Victorian mansion, told of a woman's fear, alone with an intruder during a storm and power outage that was as chilling as the weather conditions outside.

Of a gentler nature was the short essay from Wesley Frost recalling the journey of a durable cast iron cider press from Vermont to Codman Farm through 60 years of use by three owners, including Frost himself, who also rebuilt its oak frame.

Intrigue returned with a "twist in the tail" story from Palmer Faran. Set in an art gallery, two women discuss an abstract painting that reminds one of them of her artist sister and her death as a result of using poisoned finger paints.

Geoff Moore read a scene from his mystery novel, in which Scotland Yard detec-

tive Harry Flash, on assignment to Boston Police Department, is embroiled in a seemingly random act of road rage, which has fatal and far-reaching consequences.

The evening ended with an inventive piece of fiction from Neil O'Hara, describing a hedge fund manager's ingenious, if shocking plans to mitigate his funds losses after a terrorist attack blocks the Panama Canal.

What inspires a group of people to come together and share their creative thoughts and inner feelings in written form? Some are seeking a nurturing environment for their first foray into writing for an audience. For others, as at ease with their words as they are with their lives, it is an extension of a love for the written word that began a lifetime ago.

From diverse backgrounds and with differing ambitions, these writers have many things in common. One of them is a willingness to share their work, be it a memoir, essay, editorial commentary, short story, poetry or mystery novel. Another is their commitment to read each others work, first perhaps for enjoyment, but then again as writers, looking to provide comments on plot, style, structure, dialogue, theme or any of the many skills that make up a good writer's toolbox.

The Write Stuff group was established in October 2004 and is led by Lincoln Reference Librarian Jeanne Bracken, herself a published writer. It meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month during the summer. New writers of all interests and abilities are welcome to attend and further public readings are planned in the fall.