
Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 3, No. 1

Summer 1993

Our library welcomes a new director

Joyce Helen Jack, our new director, says that "books have always been the centerpiece of my career." It's a career that has brought her to Williamstown via various publishing jobs in New York City, and most recently from a position as Director of the Library and School Media Specialist at the Westmere Elementary School in the Albany area.

Williamstown seems like home to Joyce who grew up in Berea, a small college town in Ohio. The daughter of a Methodist minister, she was a big library user from childhood. She describes "getting on her bike every day during the summer and going to the library for a big stack of books — especially just before puberty hit." Her preference ran to historical fiction in those days with favorites like *The Little House of the Prairie* and *The Betsy and Tacy* books by Maud H. Lovelace as well as the ubiquitous *Nancy Drew* and *Cherry Ames* series.

A month spent in Reading, England, when she was 16 gave Joyce a life-long taste for "English-y" authors like Barbara Pym. She maintains that "reading a British novel is as good as taking a vacation" and she was delighted to learn that so many patrons of our library share that enthusiasm. Today, her favorites include Muriel Spark, Fay Weldon and Anita Brookner.

Following her graduation in 1967 from Ohio Wesleyan University with a humanities degree, Joyce traveled east to spend a summer in Cambridge, Massachusetts, taking the Radcliffe Publishing Procedures Course. Partly influenced by films like *Wonderful Town* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, she dreamed of



Director Joyce Helen Jack

Continued inside



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Photo of Joyce H. Jack
by Lauren R. Stevens is
courtesy of *The Advocate*

The Friends' Summer Book Sale returns on August 12, 13 and 14

Get out those prize recipes and clean out the bookcases — the Friends of the Library are busy with plans for this year's book and "good food" sale. It will take place under tents on the library lawn from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, August 12, through Saturday, August 14.

Please consider donating books, contributing food or signing up for a two-hour shift to run the tables. Sign-up sheets for working at the sale will be posted in the library in July and books may be dropped off at the library at any time. If you would like to contribute any type of "good food," baked goods, jams, relishes or even fresh produce, please call Susan Bernardy at 458-4237 or Catherine Winn at 458-3595 so they will know what to expect.

Special summer reading and writing programs for children:

"Sail on a Sea of Books"



The Williamstown Public Library invites you and your children to join families all over Massachusetts to "Sail On A Sea of Books," with the library's summer reading program. It will be launched at the library on June 21. Through this program's theme we will be celebrating the ocean, water activities and the marine environment as well as the fun of reading!

Readers will receive bookmarks, game sheets and reading logs. These will be included in a packet which will be given out upon registration which will take place any time after June 14 in the children's room at the library.

Children who join the program can receive discount coupons

to visit such cultural institutions and recreational attractions as the New England Aquarium in Boston, Whalom Park in Lunenburg, and the zoo at Forest Park.

All children who complete the program will be invited to a special performance of "Folklore and Songs of The Sea" by well-known minstrel Mary Jo Maichack. They will also be qualified to win prizes which will be on display in the children's room throughout the summer.

Please stop by the children's room and ask Jeannette Twardowski, the children's librarian, for details, registration forms and information about the discount coupons.

Write for the fun of it!

Workshop No. 1: Write your own animal poetry.

Do you love animals? Do you like to describe things clearly? Have you ever tried (or wanted to try) writing poetry? If you answered "yes" this workshop just might be for you.

When: July 14, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the library.

Who: Class is limited to 15 students entering grades 5, 6 or 7. The teacher is Liz Costley, teacher, writer and animal lover.

What we'll do: After reading and discussing William Blake's "The Tyger" and Marianne Moore's "The Wood Weasel" we will write two of our own poems about animals, share our work with our fellow poets and, if time permits, illustrate our poems.

What to bring: Imagination, enthusiasm and a sense of humor.

Workshop No. 2: Writing letters that can't be delivered.

In this age of telephones, fax machines and junk mail, there's little need to write a letter. This workshop changes that with a bit of a twist. Have you ever written a letter to a body part, "Dear Elbow..." or to a fairy-tale character "Dear Big Bad Wolf, About all that huffing and puffing"...or to an object in nature "Dear Volcano,..."?

When: July 28, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the library.

Who: Class is limited to 15 students entering grades 4, 5 or 6. Liz Costley will be the teacher.

What we'll do: We will discuss the basic format of letter writing and then let our imaginations run wild as we compose letters that can't be delivered – or can they? We'll read our letters out loud and illustrate them.

What to bring: Imagination, creativity and a sense of humor.

Top Shelf

The staff suggests the following for summer reading:

Adults: **Aunt Dimity's Death**, by Nancy Atherton
Charms for The Easy Life, by Kaye Gibbons
English Cottage Gardening, by Margaret Hensel

For family reading: **Call It Courage**, by Armstrong Sperry
James and the Giant Peach, by Roald Dahl
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi.

For young readers: **Boat Book**, by Gail Gibbons
A House for the Hermit Crab, by Eric Carle
Sheep on a Ship, by Nancy Shaw

For beginning and middle readers: **Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor**, by Joanna Cole
The Mousehole Cat, by Antonia Barber
Skeleton Crew, by Allan Ahlberg

For middle and older readers: **Encounter**, by Jane Yolen
Monster Myths: The Truth About Water Monsters, by Staton Rabin
Night Reef, Dusk to Dawn On A Coral Reef, by William Sargent.

Book plaques honor volunteers

The following books have been placed in our collection, each with a plaque inscribed with the volunteer's name, in recognition of and gratitude for the hours of work each woman has contributed cheerfully, competently and enthusiastically to our library. We would be lost without them!

The Berkshire Reader, edited by Richard Nunley – Betty Patterson

My Beloved Son, by Catherine Cookson – Beverly O'Brien

Wake The Dead, by Dorothy Simpson – Beverly O'Brien

Paper Doll, by Robert Parker – Dorothy Reinke

Haunting of Lamb House, by Joan Aiken – Peggy Lapine

The American Woman's Garden, by Rosemary Verey – Marie Danaher

Why the Tides Ebb and Flow, by Joan Chase Bowden – Betty Rosse.

We say "farewell" to Annette Jenks

Annette's many friends gathered to say "farewell" and to present her with a portrait of the library that was quilted and appliqued by Donna Brundage



Joyce Helene Jack

Continued

going to New York City, living in Greenwich Village and working in publishing. The dream quickly became a reality when she moved to the city at the end of summer, sublet an apartment with three other students from the Radcliffe course and got her first job as a copywriter at Charles Scribner's Sons. Once settled, Joyce remembered a favorite book from her childhood — Dr. Seuss' *And To Think That I Saw it On Mulberry Street* and hunted around the City until she found the real Mulberry Street.

The New York experience was further enhanced in 1975 when she met her husband, Sandy Hackney. The meeting took place on a train from Philadelphia where she said she knew that "he was a New Yorker because he was carrying *The New York Times*. Originally from Durham, North Carolina, Sandy shared Joyce's enthusiasm for life in the Big Apple and they settled happily into a small apartment in Greenwich Village.

By the late 1980s, however, much of the glow had gone from life in New York City. It had become a very expensive place in which to live and young families were moving out. Joyce and Sandy's building went cooperative and they saw families evicted who could not afford to purchase the apartments that had been their homes for years. At the same time, Joyce saw publishing change from a cottage industry to big business, with little institutional loyalty to authors and editors. She and Sandy began to think about other places to live.

When Sandy's bank offered him a transfer to Albany, the couple replaced their dream of urban life with the vision of an old house in the country, off the road with room for animals. They found just such a house in East Poestenkill, New York, a rebuilt 1790 structure on 11 acres of scrubby woods where they currently live with four cats and two dogs. Joyce would like to have some sheep as well, but admits it's not practical at the moment.

While Sandy was commuting to the bank in Albany Joyce was doing free-lance editing, including work on eight books by Dr. Bruno Bettelheim. She also was "seeking community in Poestenkill.

Her search led her to volunteer at the local library, open for only eight hours a week. Her work there convinced her to embark upon a different kind of book-centered career and she went to the Rockefeller College of Information Science and Policy at SUNY Albany for an M.L.S. Like many non-traditional students she enjoyed graduate school more than regular college days because "as a mature adult you know why you're there." That knowledge was reflected in her overall grade-point average of 3.7.

Her recent library experiences include being a reference librarian at the Voorheesville Public Library, Director of the Geiger Memorial Library at Temple Israel in Albany, work at the Nelson Rockefeller Institute of Government and, most recently, at the Westmere Elementary School. Joyce was the unanimous and enthusiastic choice of the Search Committee charged with the difficult task of finding a successor for Annette Jenks.

We are all delighted to welcome Joyce to our library. If you haven't had the chance to meet her yet, please stop by and introduce yourself.

You are cordially invited to the
Williamstown House of Local History's

Open House and Summer Exhibitions

Open House

Sunday, June 13 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Summer Exhibitions

A Salmagundi Party

Postmarked Williamstown • Wish You Were Here!

New and long-term residents — The House of Local History, located in the rooms above the library, can be of interest to you. Consider becoming a member. Your modest yearly dues will preserve this important organization. For a free brochure, phone Nancy Burstein, Curator, at 458-2160.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 13: Open House at the House of Local History. Rooms above the Public Library. 3 - 4:30 p.m.

June 14 - 19: Registration begins for "Sail on a Sea of Books" summer reading program for children. Children's room during regular library hours.

June 21 - July 31: "Sail On A Sea of Books" summer reading program is launched. At the library, during regular hours.

July 14: "Write Your Own Animal Poetry," writing workshop for children entering grades 5, 6 or 7. Offered by Liz Costley. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m..

July 28: "Writing Letters That Can't Be Delivered," writing workshop for children entering grades 4, 5 or 6. Offered by Liz Costley. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

August 5: "Folklore And Songs of the Sea" program for children who have completed the summer reading program. At the library. 10:30 a.m.

August 12, 13 and 14: Book and "Good Food" Sale sponsored by the Friends. On the library lawn. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

News from the Friends

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library was held on Thursday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the library. At that time, Margery R. (Midge) Safford was elected president and Julie Zelman as secretary. Renate Kopynec will continue as vice president and MacAlister Brown as treasurer. Ralph Renzi has agreed to handle publicity.

Grateful thanks and appreciation were given to Meg Dodds, retiring president and to Marilyn Coll, retiring secretary for their years of faithful service. I am looking forward to being involved with the Friends who have been so successful and enthusiastic in their support of the library. We welcome

Joyce Jack as our new Library Director and wish Annette Jenks many years of happy and fruitful retirement; she has served us all well for many years.

Once again the Friends will be contributing funds to keep the library open on Saturdays this summer, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Don't forget the book and "good food" sale on August 12, 13 and 14. The proceeds from the sale will help to fund an automated circulation system for our library, thus freeing up the staff to serve our users. See you there!

— Margery R. Safford, President of the Friends

Library Hours:

Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Wed. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Closed Sun.

To volunteer for library projects, please call (413) 458-5369.



Friends of the Williamstown Public Library

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