
Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Volume 3, No. 2 Fall 1993

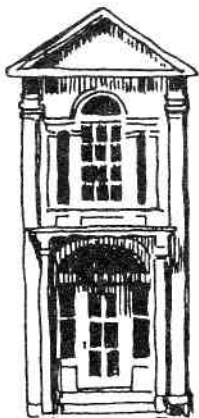
A New Collection: Lasting Music on Compact Discs

The library has a large new collection of compact discs, thanks to a federal grant of \$5,000 awarded through the Board of Library Commissioners in Boston. The collection is located in the front hall near the adult circulation desk. Discs can be checked out for three weeks, like most library materials.

Paul Garvey at The Record Store in Eph's Alley chose all the classical discs for the collection, while Hal March at Toonerville Trolley chose the jazz, blues and country discs.

The grant provided funds to purchase the original discs, a display rack and the supplies to process them for circulation. The Friends of the Library added local support to the grant by purchasing a listening center for the library with a turntable, tape player and a compact disk player. They are also donating funds for additional

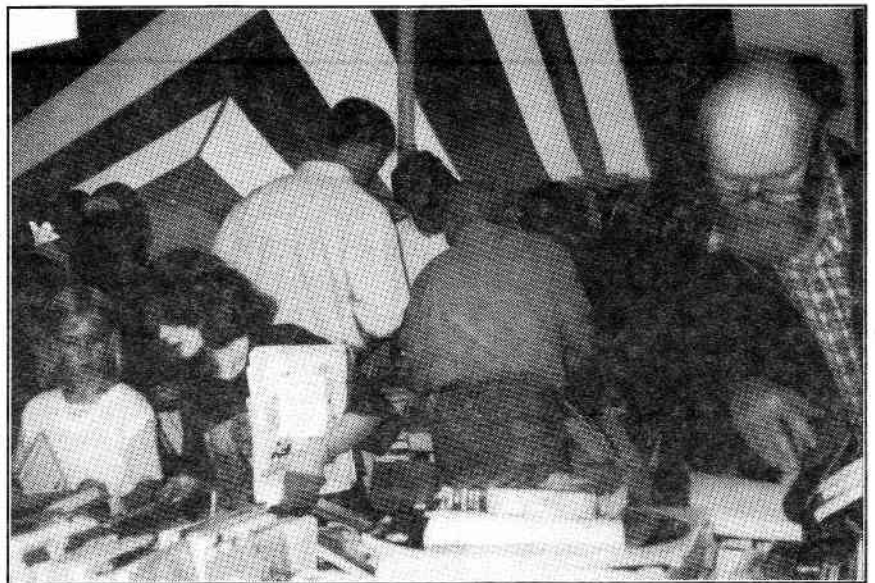
Continued on following page



Contributors:

Sara Acheson
Frances Buttenheim
Liz Costley
Marion Evans
Alan H. Green
Joyce Jack
Annette Jenks
Jeannette Twardowski

Designer: Mimi Evans
Illustrations: Mimi Evans



Browsers, buyers and bridegrooms patronized the Friends' Fourth Annual Book Sale.

My First Book and Good Food Sale

It was early in May, and Annette Jenks was showing me around the library. She opened the door to a back storage room and said, "Here is where we store the books for the book sale until they are taken over to be priced." I looked at the packed room and then at her. I had already heard some things about this book sale – how in 1992 there were over 10,000 books, how it was the major fund-raiser for the library, how people stood in line for hours the first day – and it was all happening in just a few months.

"Um, Annette," I said, "exactly who does the book sale? Who helps?" She looked at me and smiled. "Don't worry about the book sale, Joyce – the Friends do all the work."

And so they did! On August 12, 13 and 14, the Friends of the Williamstown Public Library staged the most successful book sale to date, selling an estimated 14,000

Continued on following page



Annette Jenks, Susan Bernardy and Patricia Siskind under the tent.

My First Book and Good Food Sale

Continued from previous page

books with gross proceeds of \$7,236.70. It was a wondrous event; never have I seen so many people unite so harmoniously to carry out such an ambitious undertaking. To describe the considerable efforts that culminated in the sale, one word comes to mind: *community* "a unified body of individuals...people with common interests living in a particular area."

Several comments, overheard at various moments during the sale, capture some of its spirit. The first was made on Wednesday before the sale when Susan Bernardy and Annette Jenks with other volunteers had slaved all day getting all the books transported to the tent and then sorted. As the sky blackened, everyone eyed the clouds uneasily wondering what 14,000 moldy books might smell like. Then someone said "Don't worry! The rain will hold off for *three days*." And in fact, not until the last hour of the cleanup on Saturday did the rain really descend upon the big tent, despite showers all around us.

On opening morning, the line of eager book-buyers snaked around the corner of the library. As people surged purposefully into the tent, the following comment was overheard: "NOW – the challenge will be NOT to buy back any of the books I donated!" Indeed, the library community showed not only generosity in donating used books but astounding enthusiasm for buying them. During the first

few hours, 25 running feet of paperbacks was sold, a few purchased under unusual circumstances. There was a wedding at the Methodist Church across the street, and the bridegroom with his best man were waiting outside. They saw our sale, strolled across to browse and picked up some books "for the honeymoon." The specific titles were not noted.

There were some truly "awesome" tasks performed in connection with this book sale: Maurice and Myril Filler completed the Herculean task of storing and pricing all the books prior to the sale. Susan Bernardy took two weeks' vacation from her job and Annette Jenks interrupted her retirement to make arrangements, telephone volunteers, carry, sort, price and arrange books. On the actual sale days they stayed all day to make change, re-arrange depleted tables, sort out and assign volunteers to myriad tasks.

The many Friends who had volunteered so cheerfully showed up as scheduled. Ann Ryle, the food table coordinator, was there from dawn to dusk. Cathy Winn, Hank Flynt and others showed dedication of "historic proportions" in manning the House of Local History table. Mac Brown carried and lifted, bicycling in and out, acting as treasurer and general factotum.

The delicious food disappeared almost as fast as it was set out, earning an impressive total of \$604.00, thanks to the creative cooks of Williamstown. Some of us still savor the memory of that fabulous decorator cake festooned with violets.

At the children's popcorn, juice and snack table, Alex and Rhiannon Kopynec with Amanda Sweet energetically popped and sold, staying the course over three days and earning a grand total of \$67.50. Special thanks to McDonald's in North Adams for donating the orange drink and dispenser.

Ralph Renzi handled the publicity for the sale and can take his share of the credit for such a great turnout. *The Advocate* and *The Transcript* ran photos to help generate interest in the sale. Williams College Building & Grounds Department was literally the most supportive; they provided all the tables for the sale.

There are only heroes in this story. So many people gave of their time and talent that it is impossible to list them all. Inexhaustible thanks to those few named and to the many unnamed for being such a vital part of the library's community. The Williamstown Public Library is blessed to have so many *very good* friends!

– Joyce H. Jack, Director

New Lasting Music CD Collection

Continued from previous page

discs to round out the collection.

Our library was eligible for this Library Services and Construction Act, Title I, Small Library Development Grant, because Annette Jenks wrote a long-range plan in 1991. Funded through Congress in Washington, D.C., the grant was administered through the Board of Library Commissioners in Boston. The process is slow but inexorable. Annette submitted the proposal in November 1991, the library was notified in June 1992 that it had been awarded the grant and the funds arrived in Williamstown in February 1993.

Thanks to Annette's perseverance, we can all enjoy our favorite music through the magic of compact discs.



Urgently needed now for next year's sale:

A large, dry, reasonably secure storage area to hold books for the 1994 sale, and also volunteers to help sort and price books throughout the year.

Can **you** help????

If so, please call the library: 458-5369.

You Counted!

Our Library Receives Increased State Support

Over the summer we asked patrons to write to their state representatives and to the governor indicating their support for public libraries and especially for the Western Massachusetts Regional System through which we receive bookmobile services and training programs for the staff. For the past 10 years the three state regional systems have been level-funded, with resulting losses in personnel and cutbacks in programs such as the Bookmobile and the Talking Book Program for the Blind.

NO MORE! On August 19, Governor Weld signed into law a \$3,500,000 increase in funding for public libraries and finally allocated funds for the regional systems. The Bookmobile lives!

Profound thanks to all the patrons who lobbied on our behalf.

Reading the Large Print: Eagles Support Elders

The Eagles Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in North Adams has donated \$300 to our library from their "Golden Eagle Fund," which honors members in their golden years. This is the 19th year of this national grant program and their generous donation will make possible the purchase of new large-print books, with an emphasis on non-fiction. This gesture of support to the library is greatly appreciated.

A New Collection at Willowood

The Williamstown Public Library is pleased to announce that it has established a collection of large-print books at Willowood of Williamstown, on a long-term-loan basis. These books had been in our collection for some time and were no longer circulating vigorously. Now, 47 desirable titles will be available to patrons at Willowood, many of whom often cannot get out to visit the library.

And Other Good News: New Videotapes for Parents

Another generous donation came from the Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition: Eight new videotapes collectively titled "The Parent Trip: Parenting for Our Future." Production of these tapes was a community effort and they will be an excellent addition to our Children's Room collection for parents. Topics covered on the tapes are: Pregnancy; Infants; Toddlers and Preschool Age; Discipline and Behavior; Single Parents; Adolescence and Teens; School Age; and Stress.

People at the Library:

Paula Murphy

Paula Murphy is many things: mother of six, grandmother with a business degree, former bookstore owner, mystery reader, golfer, first Vice President of the Friends of the Library and, currently, the Coordinator of the Literacy Program at our library.



Paula's interest in The Literacy Program dates back to 1987, when a friend encouraged her to take the course for volunteers. She began tutoring in 1988, and asked Annette if she could bring her students to the library. Since then she has helped Pakistanis, Koreans, Indians, Chinese and Americans learn to read, or to read English. In 1991, she became the official coordinator for the Literacy Program, which is sponsored by the library, and has been funded annually by a \$4,000 federal grant obtained through Phil Wick at Williams College.

While those federal funds no longer exist, The Literacy Program is still available, free of charge, to anyone over 18 needing basic language skills. The library now owns the necessary materials, but we still need about \$1,500 for administrative costs, most of which goes to training the volunteers. To date, the trustees of the library have voted to appropriate the funds necessary for this year so that we can continue to offer those in our community who need it the priceless gift of literacy.

Community Calendar

Friday, October 8: Birdie Etchison, instructor for Writer's Digest School, speaks on "Marketing What You Write and Finding An Agent." 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday, October 19, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.: Halloween Craft Fun: for preschool and primary-school-age children, easy Halloween decorations to construct. Materials will be provided; advanced sign-ups requested.

Thursday, October 28: Halloween party hosted by the library for children of all ages. Age-appropriate "scary" movies will be shown and snacks served. Costumes are optional. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

November: A film series for children featuring some of the library's new "Wonderworks" videos. Check with Jeannette Twardowski for details.

All programs are free and open to the public.

For more information or to volunteer for library projects, call 458-5369.



Programs for Children

Family Sharing: Something New at the Library

Does your family have special traditions, an unusual collection, or have you taken an interesting trip lately? Jeannette Twardowski is planning a series of gatherings where one family shares something special about itself with other families. If you would like to participate, please contact Jeannette at the library – 458-5369.

Summer Reading Program: A Great Success

This summer, 224 children "sailed on a sea of books," the library's summer reading program. They were all encouraged to visit the library at least six times between June 21 and July 31, but many turned up on a daily basis. During the program, the children's room was decorated with their wonderful drawings of the sea and sea creatures.

The program closed on August 5 with a festive celebration featuring minstrel Mary Jo Maichack, who entertained our 106 guests with songs and tales of the sea and then taught the children a special sea dance. Twenty-seven prizes were awarded in a random drawing, and many of the children also took advantage of coupons for admissions to various cultural attractions in the state donated by the Western Massachusetts Regional Library system. The Subway on Spring Street awarded a free sandwich to all the children who had visited the library at least three times.

Special thanks go to the Friends of the Library who made it possible for us to have Mary Jo Maichack, and who also contributed funds to purchase the prizes.

– Jeannette Twardowski, Children's Librarian

Summer Writing Workshops: For the Fun of It

Two writing workshops were held this summer at the library for elementary students interested in poetry and letter writing.

The first, entitled "Write your own animal poetry," included budding poets May Gilley, Colleen Gerrity, Marion Evans, Sara Acheson, Sarah McColl, and Rhiannon and Alex Kopynec. Each

participant was asked to write a poem about an animal that most people don't like, but that he or she finds appealing in some way. Poems were written about snakes, earwigs, field mice and tarantulas. One of the group's favorite was written by Sara Acheson:

*Snake
Scales shining in the sun
coils that scare most everyone
Working on his dinner
that will soon be done
He needs to eat
like the rest of us
We are more blood thirsty
than any python
with our wars
and battle tanks
and many other things,
so what is wrong with them?
They are only eating meals
protecting themselves*

The second, the theme of which was "writing letters that can't be delivered," was attended by Graham Leach-Krause, Burke Giordano, Sean McHugh, Marion Evans and Erin Pinckney. This workshop asked participants to write letters to objects or body parts or book characters. Marion Evans wrote to her nose:

Dear Nose:

I hate the way you stuff up in my sinuses; you really annoy me. When I try to blow you, I can't get everything out. Why can't you just come right off? It would be a whole lot easier. I'm glad that you don't stick out in front of my face like some people's do. I'm not making fun of them, I just don't like the way it looks. To make a long story short, I'm glad you just are you!

The workshops were animated and inspiring. As the leader, I was very impressed with the enthusiasm and creativity that all the participants brought with them.

– Liz Costley



Friends of the Williamstown Public Library

762 Main Street • Williamstown, MA 01267 • (413) 458-5369

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US. Postage Paid
Permit No. 59
Williamstown MA
01267